

Facility Workshop

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association and incorporated as Louisiana Health Service & Indemnity Company.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana HMO offers Blue Advantage (HMO). Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana, incorporated as Louisiana Health Service & Indemnity Co., offers Blue Advantage (PPO). Both are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Blue Advantage from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana HMO is an HMO plan with a Medicare contract. Blue Advantage from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana is a PPO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in either Blue Advantage plan depends on contract renewal.

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Our Mission

To improve the health and lives of Louisianians

Our Core Values

- Health
- Affordability
- Experience

- Sustainability
- Foundations

Our Vision

To serve Louisianians as the statewide leader in offering access to affordable healthcare by improving quality, value and customer experience

Welcome



Your Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Provider Relations Team

Left to right: Marie Davis, Melonie Martin, Anna Granen, Patricia O'Gwynn, Jami Zachary, Mary Guy, Kelly Smith, Lisa Roth

Thank You!

Please know that you can count on us to serve and support you throughout this crisis as it affects our members, providers, employees and the communities we serve. One way we are doing that is to help ease your administrative burdens when working with Blue Cross.



Thank you to the many Louisiana providers and hospitals on the front lines fighting for us through this COVID-19 crisis!

For policy and billing updates related to COVID-19, please visit our COVID-19 Provider Resources page.

Agenda

TOPIC	SLIDE
Provider Credentialing & Data Management	7
Our Networks	19
New Billing Requirements	29
Readmissions Policy	33
Blue Advantages Changes	36
Temporary Telehealth Expansion	39
iLinkBlue Enhancements	42
Authorizations	48
Claims Editing System	64

Provider Credentialing & Data Management

Join Our Networks Webpage

Join Our Networks

The documents below are available in DocuSign® format only. As of March 17, the PDF versions of these forms are no longer available. Submitting these forms in the DocuSign format allows the Provider Credentialing & Data Management staff to continue processing your requests as our employees take precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). For details on completing DocuSign forms, view this guide. When submitting DocuSign documents, please do not separately email them to Blue Cross. We automatically receive your submission from the DocuSign application. Double submissions (submitting through DocuSign and also sending an email of the completed form) could delay the processing time for your request.

Since 1996, we have been dedicated to fully credentialing providers who apply for network participation. Our credentialing program is accredited by the Utilization Review Accreditation Commission (URAC). All provider information obtained during the credentialing process is considered highly confidential.

Credentialing Process

There are two options for obtaining a Blue Cross provider record. You may request network participation or just a provider record as a non-participating provider for the purpose of filing claims. Complete the correct credentialing packet below and return to Blue Cross with all required documents.

DocuSign Format

Professional Initial Credentialing Packet

Facility Initial Credentialing Packet

Receipt of an application or agreement does not guarantee acceptance into any network. The credentialing process takes up to 90 days when all required information is received. Providers will remain non-participating in our networks until their credentialing application has been approved by our Credentialing Committee

We do not back-date network participation prior to the approval date. The credentialing approval date becomes the effective date of network participation, unless a future date is requested.

Providers may appeal committee decisions using our Appeals and Terminations Guidelines.

Ouick Links

DocuSign Format Provider Update Form

Link to Group or Clinic Request Form Number of Tax Identification Number

(TIN) Change Request for Termination Form

Add Practice Location Form

Remove Practice Location Form

- Credentialing and Recredentialing Packets (including a checklist of all required documents)
- Quick Links to provider update forms
- Credentialing Criteria

Credentialing Process

- The credentialing process can take up to 90 days once Blue Cross receives all required information
- After 90 days you may inquire about your credentialing status by contacting our Provider Credentialing & Data Management Department at PCDMstatus@bcbsla.com or 1-800-716-2299, option 2
- Required credentialing application packets are available online at www.BCBSLA.com/providers > Provider Networks > Join Our Networks
- Blue Cross credentials professional, facility and ancillary providers
- To participate in our networks, providers must meet certain criteria as regulated by our accreditation body and the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association
- Providers will remain non-participating in our networks until the agreement has been executed by the contracting department
- The credentialing committee meetings are held twice monthly
- Network providers are recredentialed every three years from their last credentialing acceptance date

Provider Credentialing & Data Management Policy

Below is Blue Cross' policy for credentialing and provider data management requests, which helps ensure requests are processed timely:

- Requests to join our networks or maintain network participation, including the credentialing and recredentialing processes, must be submitted on appropriate forms
- Requests for provider data management must be submitted on the appropriate Blue Cross form



Requests that are incomplete, missing information or submitted on the incorrect form will be returned. The processing time will start over once all required information is received.

Incomplete Credentialing Applications

Below are the most common reasons credentialing applications are returned:

- Professional provider did not submit the current version of the Louisiana
 Standardized Credentialing Application
- Facility did not submit the Health Delivery
 Organization Information Form
- Not submitting the proper attachments and/or forms
- An alternative application was submitted in place of the credentialing applications identified above (we do not accept a CAQH application)



The 90-day processing time begins when we receive all required information. The application processing time starts over once a completed application is returned to Blue Cross. Submitting a completed form is key to timely processing.

Credentialing Criteria - Facility

The following facility types must meet certain criteria to participate in our networks:

- Ambulance Service
- Ambulatory Surgical Center
- Birthing Centers
- Cardiac Cath Lab (Outpatient)
- Diagnostic Services
- Dialysis Facility
- DME Supplier
- Home Health Agency
- Home Infusion
- Hospice
- Hospitals
- IOP/PHP Psych/CDU
- Laboratory
- Lithotripsy/Orthostripsy
- Nursing Home

- Radiation Center
- Residential Treatment
- Retail Health Clinic
- Skilled Nursing Facility
- Sleep Lab/Center
- Specialty Pharmacy



Digitally Submitting Applications & Forms to Blue Cross with DocuSign®

Blue Cross is excited to announce that we are enhancing your provider experience by streamlining how you can submit applications and forms to the Provider Credentialing & Data Management (PCDM) Department. You can now complete, sign and submit many of our applications and forms digitally with **DocuSign**.

This enhancement will help streamline your submissions by reducing the need to print and submit hardcopy documents, allowing for a more direct submission of information to Blue Cross. Through this enhancement, you will be able to electronically upload support documentation and even receive alerts reminding you to complete your application and confirm receipt.

What is DocuSign?

As an innovator in e-signature technology, that helps organizations connect and automate how various documents are prepared, signed and managed

To help with this transition, we created a DocuSign guide that is available online at www.BCBSLA.com/providers > Join Our Networks



Easily complete packets & forms with DocuSign

The following applications and forms have been enhanced with DocuSign capabilities:

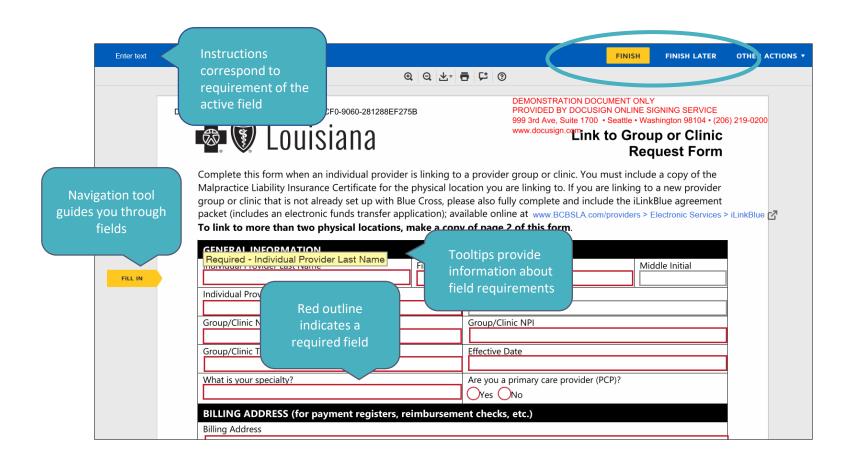
Credentialing packets

- Professional (initial)
- Professional (recredentialing)
- Facility (initial)
- Facility (reverification)

Provider Forms

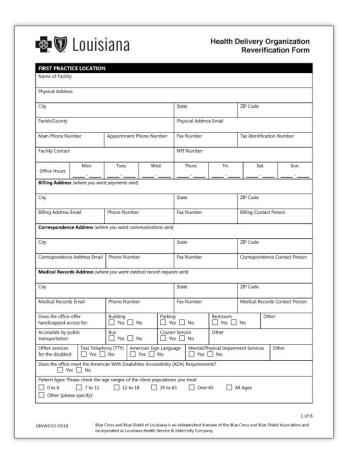
- Provider Update Request Form
- Link to Group or Clinic Request Form
- Notice of Tax Identification Number (TIN) Change Form
- Request for Termination Form
- Add Practice Location Form
- Remove Practice Location Form
- iLinkBlue Application Packet
- EFT Termination or Change Form

Easily complete forms with DocuSign



Find our *DocuSign*® *Guide* at **www.BCBSLA.com/providers** > Provider Networks > Join Our Networks

Required Recredentialing Documents

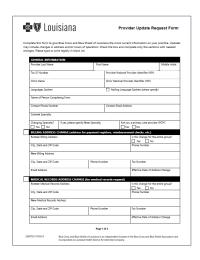


- Current network providers are required to be recredentialed every 36 months and should use our Health Delivery Organization Reverification Form
- This application is part of the facility (reverification) packet
- Our Reverification application is now emailed to the correspondence email on file. Included in the email is a link to begin completing your reverification form. Once completed and signed, it will be submitted to Blue Cross via DocuSign.

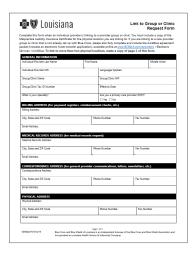
How to Update Your Information

It is important that we always have your most current information in our files. Our Provider Data team manages demographic changes to your provider record.

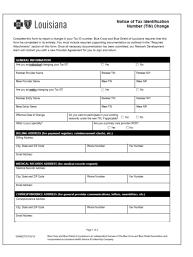
Below are the **required** forms for making the indicated changes to your record:



Use our **Provider Update**Request Form if you have an address, phone, fax, email address or hours of operation change



Use our **Link to Group or Clinic Request Form** when a credentialed provider is linking to a provider group or clinic



Use our Notice of Tax
Identification Number (TIN)
Change form to report a
change in your Tax ID number

How to Update Your Information

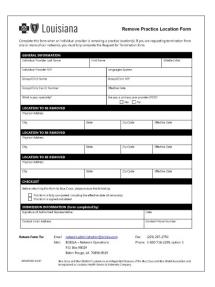
Below are the **required** forms for making the indicated changes to your record:



Use our **Request for Termination** form to request termination from one or more of our networks



Use our **Add Practice Location Form** when an individual provider is adding a practice location(s)



Use our **Remove Practice Location Form** when an individual provider is removing a practice location(s)

Our Networks

Our Provider Networks



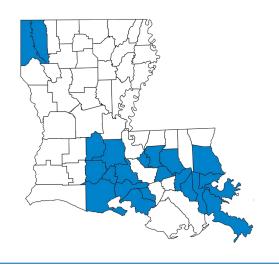
Preferred Care PPO and HMO Louisiana, Inc. networks are available statewide to members



We have a Provider Tidbit to help identify a member's applicable network when looking at the ID card. The Identification Card Guide is available online at **www.BCBSLA.com/providers**, then click on "Resources." Provider Tidbits can also be accessed through iLinkBlue under the "Resources" menu option.



Our Provider Networks



BLUE CONNECT

New Orleans area

Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist and St. Tammany parishes

Lafayette area

Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary and Vermilion parishes

Baton Rouge area

Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston and West Baton Rouge parishes

Shreveport area

Bossier and Caddo parishes



COMMUNITY BLUE

Baton Rouge area

Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston and West Baton Rouge parishes

Our Provider Networks



SIGNATURE BLUE

New Orleans area

Jefferson and Orleans parishes



PRECISION BLUE

Baton Rouge area

Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, Pointe Coupee and West Baton Rouge parishes

Federal Employee Program

The Federal Employee Program (FEP) provides benefits to federal employees, retirees and their dependents. FEP members may have one of three benefit plans: Standard Option, Basic Option or FEP Blue Focus (limited plan).

STANDARD OPTION





OPTION



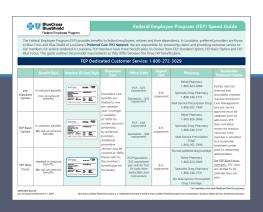


BLUE FOCUS



X Out-of-network

New FEP Speed Guide available! Visit www.BCBSLA.com/providers > Resources > Speed Guides



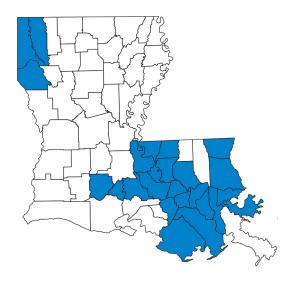
Our Blue Advantage Networks





Blue Advantage (HMO) and Blue Advantage (PPO) networks are available statewide to Medicare eligible members

Healthy Blue Dual Advantage (HMO D-SNP) Network



Healthy Blue Dual Advantage (HMO D-SNP) is our Medicare/Medicaid Dual Advantage special needs product currently available to Medicare/Medicaideligible members

HEALTHY BLUE DUAL ADVANTAGE (HMO D-SNP)

New Orleans area

Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Terrebonne and Washington parishes

Lafayette area

Acadia, Lafayette, St. Martin and St. Mary parishes

Baton Rouge area

Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, Livingston, St. James, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana parishes

Shreveport area

Bossier, Caddo and DeSoto parishes



BlueCard® Program

- BlueCard® is a national program that enables members of any Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) Plan to obtain healthcare services while traveling or living in another BCBS Plan service area
- The main identifiers for BlueCard members are the prefix and the "suitcase" logo on the member ID card. The suitcase logo provides the following information about the member:

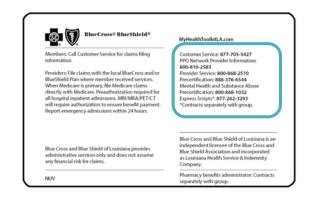


- The PPOB suitcase indicates the member has access to the exchange PPO network, referred to as BlueCard PPO basic
- The PPO suitcase indicates the member is enrolled in a Blue Plan's PPO or EPO product
- The empty suitcase indicates the member is enrolled in a Blue Plan's traditional, HMO, POS or limited benefits product

National Alliance

(South Carolina Partnership)

- National Alliance groups are administered through BCBSLA's partnership agreement with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Carolina (BCBSSC)
- BCBSLA taglines are present on the member ID cards; however, customer service, provider service and precertification are handled by BCBSSC
- Claims are processed through the BlueCard program





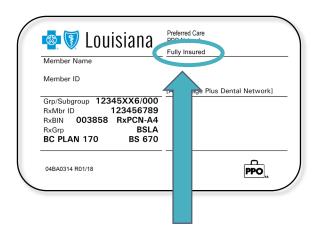
This list of prefixes is available on iLinkBlue (www.BCBSLA.com/ilinkblue) under the "Resources" section

Fully Insured vs. Self-insured

Member ID Card Differences

FULLY INSURED

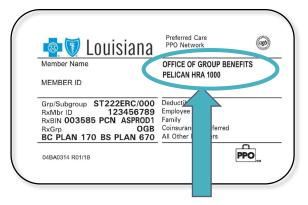
Group and individual policies issued by Blue Cross/HMOLA and claims are funded by Blue Cross/HMOLA



"Fully Insured" notation

SELF FUNDED

Group policies issued by Blue Cross/HMOLA but claims payments are funded by the employer group, not Blue Cross/HMOLA



- "Fully Insured" NOT noted
- Self-funded group name listed

The benefit, limitation, exclusion and authorization requirements often vary for self-funded groups. Please always verify the member's eligibility, benefits and limitations prior to providing services. To do this, use iLinkBlue (www.BCBSLA.com/ilinkblue).

New Billing Requirements

Pre-pay Itemized Bill Review

Effective January 1, 2020, when filing an inpatient acute care claim that has a billed charge of greater than **\$200,000**, please follow these guidelines:

- File the claim using your usual process for filing claims; in addition, please submit an itemized bill and include the Itemized Bill Cover Sheet
- If the itemized bill is sent via fax or email, you will receive an acknowledgement of receipt
- We highly recommended that you send itemized bills immediately after filing the claim or before filing the claim. Claims received with a billed amount of greater than \$200,000 without itemized bill information may be denied or result in delayed reimbursement.
- The itemized bill must list each service and item supplied to the member and match the dollar amount and dates of service
- If you have questions about this claim review process, please email the Payment Integrity department at PIIHBillReview@bcbsla.com

Effective January 1, 2021, this limit will change to a \$100,000 minimum



The Itemized Bill Cover
Sheet is located online at
www.BCBSLA.com/providers
> Resources > Forms

Submit your Itemized Bill Cover Sheet by:

Fax: (225) 298-7675

Email: PIIHBillReview@bcbsla.com Mail: Payment Integrity – BCBSLA

P.O. Box 98029

Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9029

Inpatient Unbundling Policy

The inpatient unbundling policy is effective for all inpatient acute care claims received on and after May 1, 2020

- The policy identifies supplies, items and services that should bundle with room and board charges in an inpatient setting, according to CMS guidelines. The services and supplies identified in the inpatient unbundling policy are not separately reimbursable by Blue Cross and are not billable to our members.
- All Blue Cross inpatient acute care claims and itemized bills could be subject to review under this policy. Upon discovery of a supply, item or service identified by the policy, the associated charge will be deemed non-covered/ineligible. Should an adjustment be required to your claim, it will be reflected on your remittance advice.

The full policy is available in the *Member Provider Policy & Procedure Manual* available on iLinkBlue at **www.BCBSLA.com/ilinkblue**, click on "Resources," then "Manuals"



Inpatient Unbundling Policy FAQs

For a copy of our **Inpatient Unbundling Policy Frequently Asked Questions**email **provider.relations@bcbsla.com**



Inpatient Unbundling Policy Frequently Asked Questions

What claims will the inpatient unbundling policy apply to?

This policy applies to all inpatient acute care claims.

Why is Blue Cross implementing the inpatient unbundling policy?

We reviewed a history of inpatient claims and have determined that not all facilities follow the CMS policy. We are aligning our reimbursement policy with the CMS policy to ensure proper, consistent billing of routine services and supplies.

When does the inpatient unbundling policy take effect?

This policy is effective for claims received on and after May 1, 2020.

Can I bill the member for supplies, items and services the policy identifies as not separately reimbursable by Blue Cross?

No. Providers should not bill our members for any supplies, items and services that are ineligible for separate reimbursement by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana under this policy. The Blue Cross inpatient unbundling policy aligns with the CMS policy on routine services and supplies that should be bundled in the room and board charges, as defined in the CMS Provider Reimbursement Manual, chapter 22, section 2202.06.

How will the claim review process work?

Blue Cross review of an inpatient acute care claim can be done on a post-pay or pre-pay basis. Inpatient claims and their itemized bills (as applicable) will be reviewed for the supplies, items and services under this policy. If Blue Cross identifies charges for routine services and supplies that should bundle to the room and board charges per CMS guidelines, those charges will be disallowed and considered non-covered/neliable charges.

Is it required for providers to send in the itemized bill for review of these claims?

Blue Cross requires facilities to submit an itemized bill when filing an inpatient acute claim that has a billed charge of greater than \$200,000. Blue Cross and its vendors also reserves the right to request itemized bills when deemed necessary for claims processing and review, regardless of billed amount.

If the billed charge is greater than \$200,000, an itemized bill should be submitted at the same time claims are filled. If the provider receives a Blue Cross request for an itemized statement of billed services, the provider must submit an itemized bill for review within seven days of receipt of the request.

An itemized bill should be submitted by fax, email or mail using the Itemized Bill Cover Sheet that is available online at www.BCBSLA.com/providers > Resources > Forms.

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Readmissions Policy

Next Phase Readmission Policy Delay

- In 2019, we implemented a two-phase readmissions policy to give providers time to take steps toward reducing readmissions among their patients
- The first phase (effective September 2019), does not reimburse readmissions to the same or an affiliated facility within 15 days of discharge
- Blue Cross' intent was to implement the second phase of this policy on September 1, 2020, extending the period of discharge from 15 to 30 days
- Due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) we have decided to delay the second phase of implementation of our readmissions policy until January 1, 2021

Next Phase Readmission Policy Delay

As a reminder, the guidelines currently in effect under phase one of the readmissions policy will remain in effect as follows:

- Readmissions to the same or an affiliated facility for the same condition, similar condition or a complication of the original condition within 15 days of discharge will not be reimbursed
- The first admission payment will encompass full reimbursement for treatment of the condition and/or any related complications
- Providers cannot bill members for service recouped as a result of this policy

Blue Advantage Changes

Blue Advantage Transition to Vantage Health Plan

- Effective January 1, 2021, we will be transitioning our Blue Advantage primary service administrator from Lumeris Healthcare Outcomes to Vantage Health Plan, a Louisiana-based company
- This new partnership will allow us to further innovate and impact cost and quality of care, continue to deliver exceptional customer services and improve the health and lives of Louisianians
- Vantage has extensive Medicare Advantage experience, including operational resources, that aligns with our long-term strategy for the Blue Advantage networks. We are currently working with Lumeris to ensure this transition is seamless for both our members and providers.

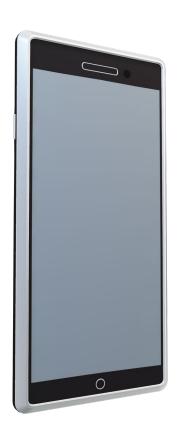
Due to COVID-19 we will be conducting our workshops as webinars. We will also be holding our Blue Advantage webinars in December. Be on the lookout for Blue Advantage transition webinar invitations. If you have not received the invitations closer to the date, email **provider.relations@bcbsla.com.**

ASC Converting to CMS-1500 Claim form for BA Claims

- Effective October 1, 2020, Blue Advantage claims for Ambulatory Surgery Centers need to be submitted on the CMS-1500 claim form
- All other commercial ASC claims should continue to be billed on the UB-04 claim form

Temporary Telehealth Expansion

Additional Temporary Telehealth Changes



Members in our HMO select networks (Blue Connect, Community Blue, Precision Blue and Signature Blue) may obtain telehealth and telephone-only services from any participating credentialed provider in any of our Blue Cross networks and the member's in-network level of benefits will be applied

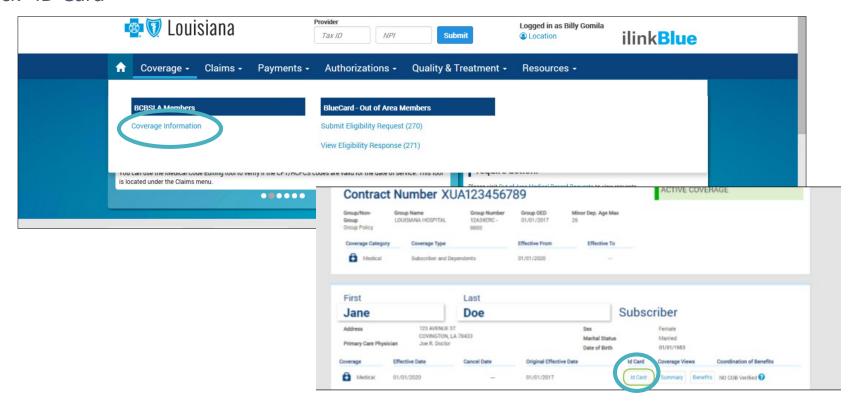
Facility Outpatient Therapy Telehealth Services

- The **temporary** expansion to our telehealth services also includes outpatient physical, occupational or speech therapy services delivered within credentialed network facilities as telehealth visits. This is effective for dates of service on and after March 16, 2020, and will remain in effect until we are past the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) national emergency. Blue Cross will notify providers when the expanded policies are no longer effective.
- The following criteria apply for outpatient therapy telehealth services:
 - Providers must operate within the scope of their license to deliver therapy services through telehealth encounters and must accept Blue Cross' allowable charges
 - The telehealth visit must be fully documented in the patient's medical record
 - Services must be provided using a non-public-facing platform for telehealth services that is either HIPAA-compliant or approved by the Health and Human Services Office of Civil Rights
 - Outpatient hospital claims for therapy telehealth services should indicate the appropriate CPT®/HCPCS code, along with Modifier GT or 95
 - Please refer to the Telehealth Temporary Member Cost Share Waiver information related to this policy

iLinkBlue Enhancements

Digital ID Cards in iLinkBlue

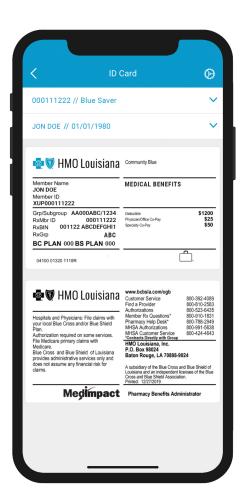
Digital ID cards are downloadable PDFs that can be accessed through iLinkBlue (www.BCBSLA.com/ilinkblue) under the "Coverage Information" menu option, then click "ID Card"



Members Can Access Their Digital ID Cards

Our members may also access their cards through their smartphone, via the Blue Cross mobile app or through our online member portal:

- To access through the Blue Cross mobile app, log on and choose the "My ID Card" option on the front page and use the dropdown menu to choose from the ID cards available
- To access through the Blue Cross member portal, log into the online member account at www.BCBSLA.com. There, click on "My ID Card" and use the dropdown menu to choose from ID cards available. These cards can be downloaded as PDFs and saved.

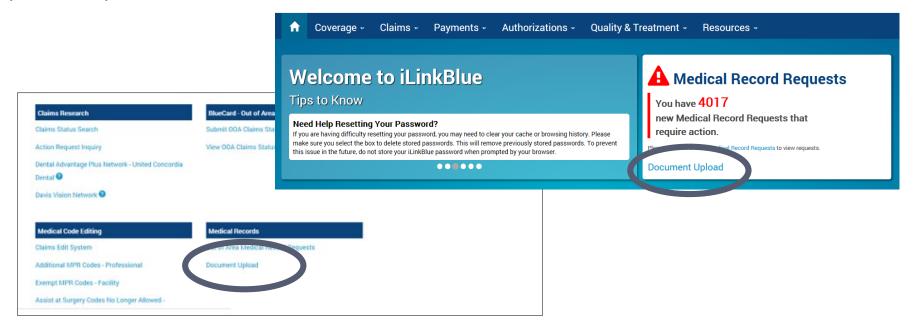


Document Upload Feature



We now offer a feature that allows providers to upload documents that would normally be faxed, emailed or mailed to select departments

The new feature is quick, secure and available at any time through the iLinkBlue provider portal

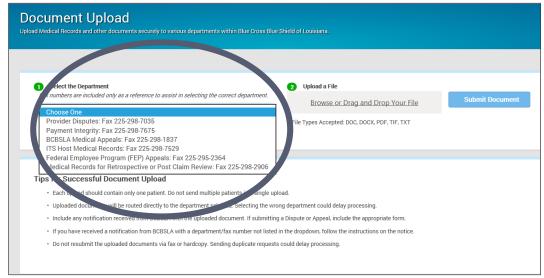


The Document Upload feature can be accessed on iLinkBlue (www.BCBSLA.com/ilinkblue) or under Claims > Medical Records > Document Upload

Document Upload Feature

Select the department you wish to send your document, from the drop-down list. The fax numbers are included only as a reference to assist in selecting the correct department.

- Provider Disputes
- Payment Integrity
- BCBSLA Medical Appeals
- ITS Host Medical Records
- Federal Employee Program (FEP) Appeals
- Medical Records for Retrospective or Post Claim Review



Document Upload Feature FAQs

What should be included in the uploaded document?

Include any notification, letter or form that is required with the request along with the medical records or other documentation requested. If submitting a Dispute or Appeal, include the appropriate form.

What file types are allowed in the upload process?

DOC, DOCX, PDF, TIF, TXT

Do I need to send a fax or hard copy request in addition to upload?

No. Sending the uploaded document thru fax, email or hardcopy mail **in addition** to uploading, will result in duplicate requests being received at Blue Cross. This will delay the processing of the request.

If you would like a copy of the FAQs that were previously sent, please email **provider.relations@bcbsla.com** with "Document Upload Feature" in the subject line

Authorizations

Authorization Portal Mandate



Effective October 1, 2020, we are requiring all prior authorization requests from home health and acute inpatient care facilities to be submitted exclusively through our online BCBSLA Authorizations Tool

Inpatient acute facilities:

- Authorization requests for inpatient acute hospitalization stays will no longer be taken via phone or fax. This includes initial (new) inpatient stays as well as continued stays.
- Providers must use the BCBSLA Authorization Tool to start and complete the process for all new requests; phone calls or faxes received after this date will be directed to the online tool. This allows providers to request authorizations for services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in real time.
- Facilities will no longer receive daily inpatient logs. We will continue to fax approval letters to your facility for every member reviewed.

For more information on how to use our BCBSLA Authorizations Tool, the *BCBSLA Authorizations Applications Facility User Guide* is available on iLinkBlue under the "Resources" tab, then click "Manuals"



Authorization Portal Mandate



Effective October 1, 2020, we are requiring all prior authorization requests from home health and acute inpatient care facilities to be submitted exclusively through our online BCBSLA Authorizations Tool

Home health facilities:

- Authorization requests for home health stays will no longer be taken via phone or fax. This
 includes initial (new) inpatient stays as well as continued stays.
- Providers must use the BCBSLA Authorization Tool to for all new requests; phone calls or faxes received after this date will be directed to the online tool. This allows providers to request authorizations for services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in real time.
- Currently this directive applies to home health, not skilled nursing facilities (SNF) or rehabilitation services. Other services will be included at a later date.

For more information on how to use our BCBSLA Authorizations Tool, the *BCBSLA Authorizations Applications Facility User Guide* is available on iLinkBlue under the "Resources" tab, then click "Manuals"



Authorization Portal Mandate



Inpatient acute and home health facilities:

Providers will need to supply the necessary clinical information in one of the three ways outlined below:

- Providers may complete a criteria review via InterQual (IQ). If one is completed and criteria is met the provider will receive approval online. Most cases will get an automatic approval when an IQ review is done. Some Self-funded (ASO) members will not get an automatic approval due to benefit limits.
- Providers may upload clinical information to the authorization request through the BCBSLA Authorization Tool, if criteria is not met
- Providers may document the clinical information in the notes section of the request in the BCBSLA Authorization Tool. This option requires the provider to generate an activity within the case. If an activity is not generated, the clinical information will not be available for the BCBSLA staff to review.

iLinkBlue - Authorizations

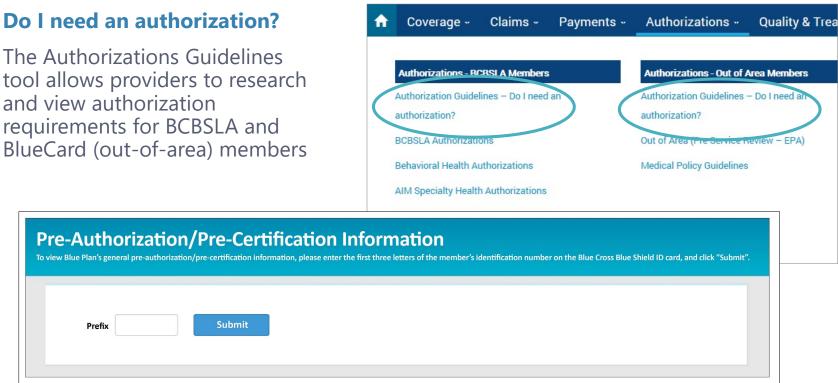


- Use the "Authorizations" menu option to access our authorization tools
- An administrative representative must grant a user access to the following applications before a request can be submitted:
 - BCBSLA Authorizations
 - Behavioral Health Authorizations
 - Out of Area (Pre-service Review EPA)

Where to Find Authorization Requirements

Do I need an authorization?

tool allows providers to research and view authorization requirements for BCBSLA and BlueCard (out-of-area) members



Simply enter the member's prefix (the first three characters of the member ID number) to access general pre-authorization/pre-certification information

Utilization Management Programs

Blue Cross has several utilization management programs that require prior authorization for select elective services. AIM Specialty Health $_{\odot}$ (AIM), an independent specialty benefits management company, serves as our authorization manager for these services:

- Cardiology
- High-tech Imaging
- Radiation Oncology
- Musculoskeletal (MSK)
 - Interventional Pain Management
 - Joint Surgery
 - Spine Surgery

Authorization requests may be completed online using the AIM *ProviderPortal*_{SM} accessed through iLinkBlue. AIM clinical appropriateness guidelines are available at **www.aimspecialtyhealth.com**.

AIM extensions - COVID Exceptions - For new authorizations requested from March 30 to June 30

- All new approved AIM authorizations are given a 90-day time span. Implemented March 30, 2020. This applies to all programs except Radiation therapy.
 - If the authorization was approved prior to March 30 and the time span has ran out, they
 must call and get a new authorization
- All CT's of the chest requested for known or suspected diagnosis of COVID-19 will get an auto approval by AIM. Implemented March 30, 2020. They still must request, but it will auto approve.

The full policy is available in the *Member Provider Policy & Procedure Manual* available on iLinkBlue at **www.BCBSLA.com/ilinkblue**, click on "Resources," then "Manuals"

Usualisiana

Imaging Authorizations

The ordering physician should always use the AIM *ProviderPortal*_{SM} in iLinkBlue to set up an authorization

AIM Specialty Health_® allows you to submit and receive pre-authorizations over the web on a real-time basis eliminating the need to call AIM for the following outpatient high-tech diagnostic services:

- Computerized Tomography (CT) Scans
- Computerized Tomographic Angiography (CTA)
- Fractional Flow Reserve using CT (FFR-CT)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- Magnetic Resonance Angiography (MRA)
- Nuclear Cardiology Procedures
- Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scans

Blue Advantage (HMO) | Blue Advantage (PPO) providers currently use AIM for their Blue Advantage members' authorizations for radiation oncology, high-tech radiology, musculoskeletal (outpatient only) and cardiology (office and outpatient)

Top reasons for claim denials related to outpatient imaging authorizations:

- No authorization on file
- Facility location (place of treatment) does not match authorization
- Servicing provider does not match authorization

OptiNet Registration Tool in iLinkBlue

- AIM Specialty Health® offers **Opti**Net® an online registration tool that gathers information about the technical component capabilities of diagnostic imaging services and calculates provider scores based on self reported information
- Through this tool, we can offer members and their ordering providers the option to "shop" for quality, lower-cost diagnostic imaging services
- Without an OptiNet score, you miss out on this opportunity for exposure to Blue members

Why Is Your Score So Important?

 For any provider who performs imaging services and does not complete an assessment, a score will not be part of our benchmarking, meaning the provider will not be included in transparency programs such as our shopper program or future reimbursement incentives

OptiNet Registration Tool in iLinkBlue

How Is Your Score Calculated?

- The site score measures basic performance indicators that are applicable for the facility, such as general site access, quality assurance and staffing
- The modality specific scoring is based on indicators such as MD certification, technologist certification, modality accreditation and equipment quality

How to Access OptiNet?

- Log into iLinkBlue (www.BCBSLA.com/ilinkblue)
- Click on the "Authorizations" menu option Click on the "AIM Specialty Health Authorizations" link; this link takes you to the AIM *Provider*Portal_{SM}
- Click on "Access Your OptiNet Registration" on the left menu bar
- Click the green "Access Your OptiNet Registration" button

Prior Authorizations

- Services that require prior authorization can be found in our provider manuals and network speed guides. These are available in iLinkBlue (www.BCBSLA.com/ilinkblue) under "Resources."
- Authorization requirements may vary by product
- The ordering/rendering provider must initiate the authorization process at least 48 hours prior to the service by:
 - Using iLinkBlue to access our online authorization portal, or
 - Calling the authorization number on the member ID card

Top reasons for claim denials related to authorizations:

- Place of treatment and/or date of service does not match authorization
- Diagnosis and/or procedure code does not match authorization
- Servicing provider does not match authorization

Process for Changing an Authorizations

You can ask our authorization department to change or add a code to an already approved authorization when **all of the following** conditions are met:

- There is an approved authorization on file
- Provider states a claim has not been filed
- The requested code is surgical or diagnostic
- The requested code is not on a Blue Cross medical policy or a non-covered benefit

If the above criteria is met, an authorization can be changed within seven calendar days of the services being rendered

If the procedure being added or changed is on a Blue Cross medical policy or is a non-covered benefit, it cannot be updated on the authorization. Once the claim is filed, fax medical records to (225) 298-2906 or 1-800-515-1150.

Failure to Obtain an Authorization

Failure to obtain a prior authorization can result in:

- A 30% penalty imposed on Preferred Care PPO and HMO Louisiana, Inc. network providers for failing to obtain authorization prior to performing an outpatient service that requires authorization
- A \$1,000 penalty applied to inpatient hospital claims if the patient's policy requires an inpatient stay to be authorized (Note: some policies contain a different inpatient penalty provision)
- The denial of payment for services for our Office of Group Benefits (OGB) members



Authorization penalties or services that deny for no authorization are not billable to the member

OGB Authorizations

OGB authorization requirements are different. Failure to obtain an authorization will result in denial of payment for services.

OGB PLAN SERVICES REQUIRING AUTHORIZATION

Plan authorization is required for the following services for all OGB benefit plans when the OGB plan is primary or secondary. When Medicare is primary, an authorization is required once the combined benefit limit of 50 visits of PT/OT have been achieved. Providers may request authorization by calling our Authorization line. Failure to obtain prior authorization for these services will result in the denial of payment for services.

Authorization requirements for the following services apply for all OGB benefit plans

- · Hospital Admissions (except
- Mental Health/Substance Organ, Tissue and Bone
- Marrow Transplant Services Skilled Nursing Facility
- Maternity admissions to in-network facilities (or outof-network facilities if the member has out-of-network benefits) do not require authorization if the inpatient stay is 48 hours or less for vaginal delivery and 96 hours
- delivery. authorization for these rvices are handled directly by AIM Specialty Health (AIM)



authorization for these services for OGB members will result in denial of payment for



OUTPATIENT

- Air Ambulance Non-Emergency (no benefit
- · Applied Behavior Analysis
- Bone Growth Stimulator
- Cardiac Rehabilitation
- CT Scans**
- the complete list of drugs requiring an authorization is available online at www.bcbsla.com/providers
- Home Health Care Hospice
- Hyperbarics
- Implantable Medical Devices over \$2.000, including but not limited to defibrillators and insulin pumps
- includes home and facility administration (exception: Physician's office, unless the drug to be infused may
- require authorization) · Intensive Outpatient Programs
- · Low Protein Food Products
- MRI/MRA** Nuclear Cardiology*
- · Oral Surgery (not required when performed in a Physician's office)

Member Provider Policy & Procedure Manua

- Orthotic Devices (greater than without prior authorization) \$300) · Outpatient pain rehabilitation

Organ Transplant Evaluation

or pain control programs

· Certain Prescription Drugs

· Physical/Occupational Therapy

Prosthetic Appliances (greater

(greater than 50 visits)

Partial Hospitalization

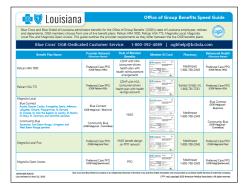
Programs

- · Day Rehabilitation Programs
- · Durable Medical Equipment (greater than \$300)
- · Electric & Custom Wheelchairs
- - than \$300) · Residential Treatment Centers · Sleep Studies (except those performed as a home sleep study)

> Pharmacy

- Stereotactic Radiosurgery, including but not limited to gamma knife and
- cyberknifenrocedures · Vacuum Assisted Wound
- Closure Therapy

- The list of OGB authorization requirements can be found in our Member Provider Policy and Procedure Office Manual located on iLinkBlue
- The list also appears on the OGB Speed Guide located on www.BCBSLA.com/providers > Resources





Find a copy of the OGB Speed Guide at www.BCBSLA.com/providers > Resources > Speed Guides

Urgent Authorizations

The initial request for authorization of an urgent illness is processed as soon as possible based on the clinical situation, or within 72 hours of the request regardless of whether all information is received

The authorization process is designed only to evaluate the medical necessity of the service and is not a guarantee of payment or a confirmation of coverage for benefits

Approved Requests

- The contact person/practitioner is notified by telephone
- A confirmation letter is sent to the member, physician and hospital, as applicable

Denied Requests

- The contact person is notified by telephone and is given the reason for the denial and the procedure for initiating the expedited appeal process
- A letter listing appeal rights is sent to the member, physician and hospital, if applicable, within one business day of the determination

Temporary Authorizations

An authorization is required for many services. While authorizations are still required for those services, we are automatically approving all services related to the diagnosis or treatment of COVID-19 without medical review.

- This change applies to inpatient and outpatient services
- This automatic approval will be triggered by including the appropriate ICD-10 code for COVID-19:
 - B97.29 for dates of service prior to April 1, 2020
 - U07.1 for dates of service on and after April 1, 2020

Providers can electronically submit authorization requests for BCBSLA members through iLinkBlue (www.BCBSLA.com/ilinkblue) using our BCBSLA Authorizations tool under the "Authorizations" menu option, or you can call the number on the member ID card

Temporary Authorization Requirements for hospitals

Non-Emergent Hospitalizations:

 Authorizations for non-emergent hospitalization (scheduled admissions for elective procedures) must be prior authorized if benefits require authorizations

Behavioral Health authorizations:

 Authorization for behavioral health services (inpatient admissions, IOP, PHP, RTC and ABA services) must be prior authorized

Transplant services:

Transplant services must be prior authorized

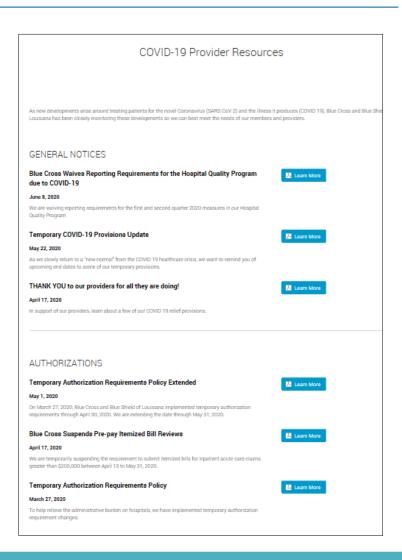
COVID-19 Provider Resources Page

Since March 2020, we have been making provisions to help our providers as they work tirelessly to treat patients

Visit www.BCBSLA.com/providers, then click on the link at the top of the page to get more information on the provisions we have put in place for:

- Authorizations
- Telehealth
- Billing & Coding Guidelines
- Credentialing & Provider Data Management
- Quality Blue

Check this page often, as we are constantly updating it with new information



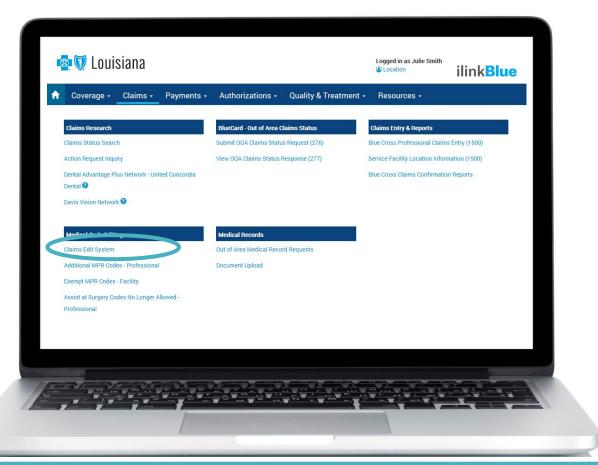
Claims Editing System

Claims Editing Software

- We updated to a new claims editing software (CES) system that launched on July 27, 2019
- It applies edits to incoming claims to ensure proper coding and billing based on:
 - Reimbursement
 - Medical policy
 - Benefit rules
 - Industry standard and coding guidelines
- It promotes accurate and consistent payments
- It manages compliance with standard coding and billing practice between various types of services, such as:
 - Medical
 - Surgical
 - Lab and radiology

Claims Editing System Tool

With the implementation of the new CES system, we have a new tool in iLinkBlue for providers to calculate claim-edit outcomes



Claims Editing System Tool

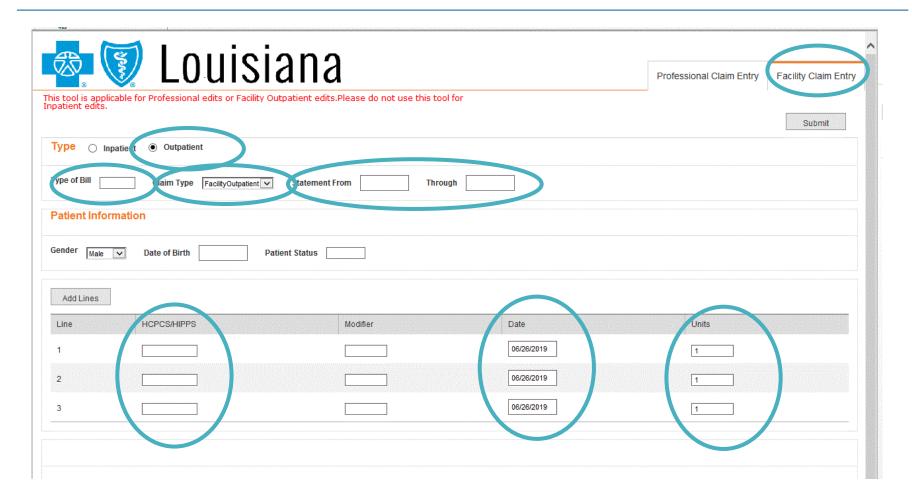
This tool does not guarantee claims payment

The results of the software do not consider all circumstances and factors that may affect payment including:

- Historical claims previously billed
- Units billed
- Global day edits for procedures
- Multiple procedure reduction
- Member benefits and eligibility
- Provider contracts
- Modifiers that override edits



CES Tool Mandatory Fields



NOTE: If you do not enter the Statement From or Through dates, no edits will be returned, so the dates are necessary

Annual Provider Survey

Thank you to those who took our recent survey. If you didn't respond, be sure to take our survey next year. We greatly value your input!

- As a result of the 2019 survey, we implemented a new Provider Outreach initiative. We provide training and assistance for newly credentialed providers.
- We have received positive feedback regarding this initiative and look forward to hearing your additional ideas



Questions?

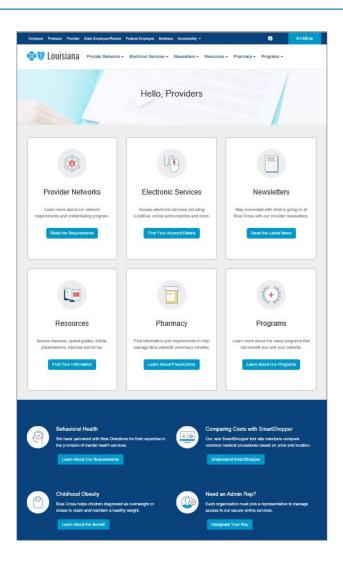
Appendix

Future Webinars

- BlueCard[®]
 - October 21, 2020
- New to Blue Cross (Facility & Professional)
 - o November 18, 2020
- Provider Credentialing & Data Management
 - o November 4, 2020

Invitations for these webinars will be sent closer to the webinar dates

Provider Page



www.BCBSLA.com/providers

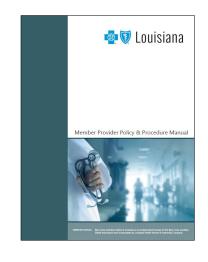
The Provider Page is home to online resources such as:

- Provider manuals
- Network speed guides
- Newsletters
- Provider forms
- And more

Manuals & Newsletters

Our provider **manuals** are extensions of your network agreement(s). The manuals are designed to provide the information you need as a participant in our networks.

www.BCBSLA.com/providers > Resources





Our provider **newsletters**, contain information and tips on changes to processes, such as claims filing procedures or reimbursement changes, along with a number of featured articles

www.BCBSLA.com/providers > Newsletters

Not Getting Our Newsletters Electronically?

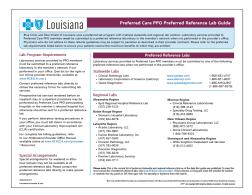
Send an email to **provider.communications@bcbsla.com**. Put "newsletter" in the subject line. Please include your name, organization name and contact information.

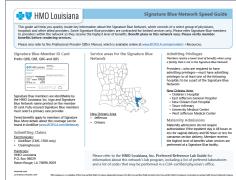
Speed Guides & Tidbits

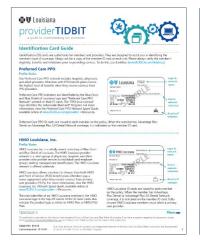
Speed Guides offer quick reference to network authorization requirements, policies and billing guidelines

www.BCBSLA.com/providers

>Resources >Speed Guides









Provider Tidbits are quick guides designed to help you with our current business processes

www.BCBSLA.com/providers

> Resources > Tidbits

Continuing Medical Education

- We are offering free continuing medical education (CME) credits for our primary care providers directly through the Washington University CME portal
- More than 30 courses are available on a variety of topics
- Please be sure to take advantage of these free CME credits before this opportunity ends on **December 31, 2020**



Accessing the Washington University CME Portal:

- 1. Go to https://cmeonline.wustl.edu/bcbsl/
- Click "New Account"
- 3. Enter registration information (* indicates required information)
- 4. Click "Sign Up"

Call Centers

Customer	Care	Center	1-800-922-8866
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FEP Dedicated Unit 1-800-272-3029

OGB Dedicated Unit 1-800-392-4089

Blue Advantage 1-877-250-9167

For information NOT available on iLinkBlue

Other Provider Phone Lines

BlueCard Eligibility Line[®] – 1-800-676-BLUE (1-800-676-2583)

for out-of-state member eligibility and benefits information

Fraud & Abuse Hotline – 1-800-392-9249

Call 24/7 and you can remain anonymous as all reports are confidential

Network Administration – 1-800-716-2299

option 1 – for questions regarding provider contracts

option 2 – for questions regarding credentialing/recredentialing

option 3 – for questions regarding your provider data management

option 4 – for questions regarding provider relations

option 5 – for questions regarding administrative representative setup

Provider Relations

Provider Education & Outreach

Kim Gassie director

Jami Zachary manager

Anna Granen

Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard

Kelly Smith

Acadia, Ascension, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberville, Jefferson Davis, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Landry, St. Martin, Vermilion, West Baton Rouge

Lisa Roth

Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Grant, Jackson, Lincoln, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Union, Webster, Winn

Marie Davis

Assumption, Iberia, Lafayette, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary, Terrebonne

Mary Guy

East Feliciana, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Feliciana

Melonie Martin

East Baton Rouge

Patricia O'Gwynn

Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Evangeline, Franklin, LaSalle, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Rapides, Richland, Tensas, Vernon, West Carroll

Network Development Provider Contracting

Shelton Evans director – shelton.evans@bcbsla.com

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Danielle Jackson manager – danielle.jackson@bcbsla.com

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Cora LeBlanc – **cora.leblanc@bcbsla.com** Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary, Terrebonne

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Natchitoches, Rapides, Sabine, Vernon, Winn

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Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Caldwell, Claiborne, DeSoto,
East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison,
Morehouse, Ouachita, Red River, Richland, Tensas, Union,
Webster, West Carroll

Jill Taylor – jill.taylor@bcbsla.com Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard

Mica Toups – mica.toups@bcbsla.com Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, Vermilion

Sue Condon – **sue.condon@bcbsla.com**Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville,
Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, West Baton Rouge,
West Feliciana

Shannon Taylor – shannon.taylor@bcbsla.com Special Network Development Projects

Provider Credentialing & Data Management

Provider Network Setup, Credentialing & Demographic Changes

Justin Bright director

Mary Reising manager – mary.reising@bcbsla.com

Anne Monroe provider information supervisor – anne.monroe@bcbsla.com

Rhonda Dyer provider information supervisor – rhonda.dyer@bcbsla.com

If you would like to check the status on your Credentialing Application or Provider Data change or update, please contact the Provider Credentialing & Data Management Department by emailing **PCDMstatus@bcbsla.com** or by calling 1-800-716-2299