

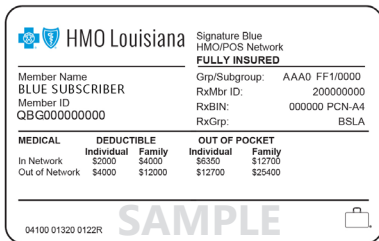


This guide will help you quickly locate key information about the Signature Blue Network, which consists of a select group of physicians, hospitals and other allied providers. Some Signature Blue providers are contracted for limited services only. Please refer Signature Blue members to providers within the network so they receive the highest level of benefits. **Benefit plans in this network vary. Please verify member benefits before rendering services.**

Please also refer to the *Professional Provider Office Manual*, which is available online at www.bcbsla.com/providers > Resources.

Signature Blue Member ID Card

Prefix: QBB, QBE, QBG and QBS



Signature Blue members are identifiable by the HMO Louisiana, Inc. logo and Signature Blue Network name printed on the member ID card. Fully insured Signature Blue members must select a primary care provider.

Tiered benefits apply to members of Signature Blue. More details about this coverage can be found in iLinkBlue (www.bcbsla.com/ilinkblue).

Submitting Claims

Electronically:

- iLinkBlue (CMS-1500 only)
- Clearinghouses

Hardcopy:

HMO Louisiana
P.O. Box 98029
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9029

Service areas for the Signature Blue Network



New Orleans Area

- Jefferson
- Orleans
- St. Tammany

Admitting Privileges

Members receive a lower level of benefits when using a facility that is not in the Signature Blue Network.

Providers—who are required to have admitting privileges—must have admitting privileges to LCMC Health to be a part of the Signature Blue Network. The following list includes some but not all of the participating facilities in Signature Blue:

- Children’s Hospital
- East Jefferson General Hospital
- Lakeview Regional Medical Center
- New Orleans East Hospital
- Touro Infirmary
- Tulane Lakeside Hospital
- Tulane Medical Center
- University Medical Center
- West Jefferson Medical Center

Maternity Admissions

Maternity admissions do not require authorization if the inpatient stay is 48 hours or less for vaginal delivery and 96 hours or less for cesarean section delivery. Member receives the highest level of benefits when services are performed at a Signature Blue facility.

Please refer to the **HMO Louisiana, Inc. Preferred Reference Lab Guide** for information about this network’s lab program, including a list of preferred laboratories and a list of codes that may be performed in a CLIA-certified physician’s office.

Services That Require Prior Authorization

The following services may require HMO Louisiana approval. This list may vary for self-funded groups.

- Air Ambulance – Non-emergency (no benefit without prior authorization)
- Applied Behavior Analysis**
- Arterial Ultrasound*
- Arthroscopy and Open Procedures (shoulder & knee)*
- Bone Growth Stimulator
- Cardiac Rehabilitation
- Cellular Immunotherapy (no benefit without written authorization)
- Coronary Arteriography*
- CT Scans*
- Day Rehabilitation Programs
- Durable Medical Equipment (greater than \$300)
- Electric & Custom Wheelchairs
- Gene Therapy (no benefit without written authorization)
- Genetic and Molecular Testing*
- Hearing Aids age 18 & older (no benefit without prior authorization)
- Hip Arthroscopy*
- Home Health Care
- Hospice
- Hyperbarics
- Implantable Medical Devices over \$2,000 (including but not limited to defibrillators)
- Infusion Therapy – includes home and facility administration (exception: not required when performed in an office, the drug to be infused may require authorization)
- Inpatient Hospital Services (except routine maternity stays)**
- Intensive Outpatient Programs**
- Interventional Spine Pain Management*
- Joint Replacement (hip, knee & shoulder)*
- Low-protein Food Products
- Meniscal Allograft Transplantation of the Knee*
- MRI/MRA*
- Nuclear Cardiology*
- Oral Surgery (not required when performed in an office)
- Orthotic Devices greater than \$300
- Partial Hospitalization Programs**
- Percutaneous Coronary Interventions such as Coronary Stents and Balloon Angioplasty*
- PET Scans*
- Certain Prescription Drugs – the complete list of drugs requiring an authorization is available online at www.bcbsla.com/providers >Pharmacy
- Private Duty Nursing
- Prosthetic Appliances
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- Radiation Therapy for Oncology*
- Residential Treatment Centers
- Resting Transthoracic Echocardiography*
- Sleep Apnea Diagnostics and Titration (home sleep test [HST], polysomnograms [PSG], multiple sleep latency testing [MSLT], maintenance of wakefulness testing [MWT], positive airway pressure titration studies)*
- Sleep Apnea Treatment (automatic positive airway pressure [APAP] therapy, continuous positive airway pressure [CPAP] therapy, bilevel, or variable, positive airway pressure [BPAP] therapy. Includes all supplies related to these devices, oral appliance therapy and hypoglossal nerve stimulation therapy.)*
- Spine Surgery*
- Stress Echocardiography*
- Surgical Treatment of Erectile Dysfunction (including penile implants) (if benefits available)
- Temporomandibular Joint Syndrome (TMJ) Surgical Treatment
- Transesophageal Echocardiography*
- Transplant Evaluation & Transplants (no benefit without written authorization)
- Treatment of Osteochondral Defects*
- Vacuum Assisted Wound Closure Therapy

Please refer to the **HMO Louisiana, Inc. Network Speed Guide** for more information on the following topics:

- Behavioral Health Claims & Authorizations
- Provider Responsibilities
- PCP Office Responsibilities
- Physician Services

To Request Prior Authorization

Blue Cross does not accept authorization requests over phone or fax. Providers must submit prior authorization requests, including new and extension authorizations, through our online BCBSLA Authorizations application. This application is available on iLinkBlue (www.bcbsla.com/ilinkblue), located under the "Authorizations" menu option. Exceptions for transplants or dental services covered under medical and most out-of-state services.

* High-tech imaging & utilization management program services are authorized through the Carelon MBM Provider Portal by clicking the "Carelon Authorizations" link.

** Behavioral health services are authorized through the Lucet WebPass Portal by clicking the "Behavioral Health Authorizations" link.

Penalties may apply for failure to obtain prior authorization. Full details are in our provider manuals, available online at www.bcbsla.com/providers, then click on "Resources."

Find a full list of provider support contacts online at www.bcbsla.com/providers >Provider Networks >Provider Support.