

Brief Notes

News for
Brokers and Consultants

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Applies to: All Markets

Bayonne Medical Center no longer part of Horizon Hospital Network

Bayonne Medical Center has terminated its contract with Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. Under state law and the terms of Horizon BCBSNJ's contract, Horizon HMO and other Horizon BCBSNJ members may continue to use Bayonne Medical Center as a participating hospital through February 6, 2009 (prior authorization must be obtained when required). Beginning February 7, 2009, Bayonne Medical Center will no longer be a Horizon BCBSNJ network hospital.

As always, we are focused on ensuring that our members have access to needed care. We are working with our large network of hospitals and physicians to minimize the disruption caused by Bayonne Medical Center's actions. We are also in the process of sending letters to affected subscribers and physicians explaining the ramifications of this termination and how it affects the members' benefits.

Please see below for answers to questions you may have about these changes in our network.

Q. How do these changes affect my clients' benefits?

A. Your clients have the same basic health plan benefits. Horizon HMO, Horizon Medicare Blue Value and Horizon Medicare Blue Solutions members, however, receive nonemergency hospital coverage only when they use hospitals in the Horizon Hospital Network.

Horizon POS, Horizon Direct Access, Horizon PPO, Horizon Medicare Blue Access and other Horizon BCBSNJ members incur lower out-of-pocket costs and realize maximum coverage benefits by using our Horizon Hospital Network.

Q. What should my clients do in a medical emergency?

A. In case of a medical emergency, your clients should go to the nearest emergency facility, without worrying about network affiliations.

Q. What do my clients do if they are currently receiving treatment at Bayonne Medical Center?

A. If your clients are currently receiving treatment at Bayonne Medical Center for a condition requiring continuous treatment or for pregnancy, which they believe will extend beyond February 6, 2009, they can continue treatment as long as they contact Horizon BCBSNJ Member Services at the telephone number listed on their ID cards, and we agree to authorize the ongoing care at this hospital.

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Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey

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Q. When do these changes take effect?

A. Bayonne Medical Center terminated its contract with Horizon BCBSNJ, effective 12:01 a.m. Eastern Time, October 7, 2008.

Under the terms of Horizon BCBSNJ's contract with Bayonne Medical Center, the contract is extended for four months for Horizon HMO, Horizon Medicare Blue Value Horizon Medicare Blue Solutions, Horizon POS, Horizon Direct Access, Horizon PPO, Horizon Medicare Blue Access and other Horizon BCBSNJ members from October 7, 2008 through February 6, 2009.

Therefore, members can receive treatment at Bayonne Medical Center at an in-network level of benefits through February 6, 2009, as long as they obtain prior authorization when required.

We encourage all members to use network hospitals to maximize their benefits and minimize their out-of-pocket costs.

Q. Why is Horizon BCBSNJ waiting until the termination date to notify its members?

A. State law requires that we notify our HMO members of a termination within the first 15 days of the four-month contract extension period; however, we are notifying all members at the same time about this change.

Q. How can my clients find out about other hospitals in the network?

A. Your clients have a choice of network hospitals throughout New Jersey. They can search for hospitals participating in the Horizon Hospital Network by visiting our Web site, www.HorizonBlue.com, and using the *Provider Directory* search tool. They may also refer to the attached list of hospitals in the Horizon Hospital Network.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Please contact your Horizon BCBSNJ account manager or sales representative if you have questions.