



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

## COVID-19 emergency measures update effective November 1

Certain Blue Cross® Blue Shield® of Arizona (BCBSAZ) crisis intervention measures will be suspended, effective November 1, 2020, based on the stabilization of hospital bed capacity over the past several weeks. We are cautiously optimistic that this trend signifies a more manageable level of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

We will continue to uphold other waivers and adjustments for the duration of the public health emergency and will reactivate the suspended measures if it becomes necessary because of another sustained surge in hospitalizations. Below is the updated list of strategies and time frames:

TYPE OF WAIVER/ADJUSTMENT	LINE OF BUSINESS	CURRENT TIME FRAME
Concurrent review waiver for inpatient acute care hospitalizations <i>Penalties for unscheduled admission notification or precertification are also waived.</i>	BCBSAZ fully insured plans and all Medicare Advantage plans (includes those administered by P3 Health Partners)	Effective July 3 through October 31
Preservice review waiver for all transitions from acute care to post-acute care facilities (SNF/EAR/LTAC) <i>You must notify BCBSAZ within 72 hours of admission and send medical records within three days for concurrent review.</i>	All BCBSAZ-administered commercial and Medicare Advantage plans (includes those administered by P3 Health Partners)	Effective June 10 through October 31
Preservice review waiver for post-acute care home nursing visits and DME items	BCBSAZ fully insured plans and BCBSAZ-administered Medicare Advantage plans	Effective July 3 through October 31
Preservice review time frame limit adjustment (these were expanded to be valid for 90 days past the approval date); excludes pharmacy authorizations	BCBSAZ fully insured plans and BCBSAZ-administered Medicare Advantage plans	Reinstated July 3 through October 31
Waiver of three-day prior hospitalization requirement for SNF stays	Medicaid and traditional Medicare	Duration of COVID-19 public health emergency
PCP referral waiver for in-network services related to COVID-19 diagnoses (consistent with CDC guidelines for COVID-19 treatment)	PCP Coordinated Care HMO plans	Duration of COVID-19 public health emergency
PCP referral waiver for all services	BCBSAZ-administered Medicare Advantage plans	Duration of COVID-19 public health emergency
Waiver of early refill limits on 30-day prescriptions for maintenance medications	BCBSAZ-administered Medicare Advantage plans	Duration of COVID-19 public health emergency
Preservice review waiver for COVID-19 testing and treatment (consistent with CDC guidelines)	ALL plans—see note below about self-funded plans and those from other Blue Plans	Duration of COVID-19 public health emergency
<b>Member cost-share waivers</b>		
Member cost-share waiver for in-network tele-everything services for all diagnosis codes	BCBSAZ fully insured plans and BCBSAZ-administered Medicare Advantage plans	Duration of COVID-19 public health emergency
Member cost-share waiver for in-network tele-everything services for COVID-19 diagnosis codes only	Federal Employee Program® (FEP®) plans	March 6 throughout COVID-19 public health emergency
Member cost-share waiver for COVID-19 testing (consistent with CDC guidelines)	ALL plans—see note below about self-funded plans and those from other Blue Plans	Duration of COVID-19 public health emergency
Member cost-share waiver for COVID-19 treatment (consistent with CDC guidelines)		
<b>Note:</b> Self-funded employer groups and other Blue Plans determine their own member-benefit coverage and waivers of cost-share and preservice-review requirements.		

For more information about our COVID-19 response strategies, please visit our provider updates page at [azblue.com/coronavirus-providers](https://azblue.com/coronavirus-providers).

P3 Health Partners is an independent company that provides services to BCBSAZ Medicare Advantage providers and members.

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