



## BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD OF MISSISSIPPI (BCBSMS) **EFFECTIVE 1/1/2012** BLUE CARE PRODUCTS REQUIRE PRE-CERTIFICATION FOR OUT OF STATE SERVICES

BCBSMS has announced that effective January 1, 2012 they will require pre-certification for elective (non-emergency) care outside the state of Mississippi for Blue Care Members.

If you provide elective services to a Mississippi Blue Care Member outside the state of Mississippi, confirm the appropriate pre-certification forms have been completed and approved prior to providing these services.

Please see announcement below.

**Pre-Certification Required for Out of State Services**

Published Date: Dec 16, 2011

We are committed in ensuring that Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi (BCBSMS) members establish a health and wellness relationship with Mississippi network providers. To support this commitment, our new Blue Care Individual products have been enhanced to encourage the use of BCBSMS Network providers for our members' care. Our Blue Care for Kids and new Blue Care Individual benefits for members aged 19-30 require members to select a *Healthy You!* Network Provider located and practicing in Mississippi. As a result, for these members, *Healthy You!* services will only be covered when rendered by a Mississippi *Healthy You!* Network Provider.

Also, our BCBSMS Network Providers understand our medical policies and share in our commitment in achieving a healthier Mississippi. As such, in order to ensure that benefits are managed in the most cost effective manner, effective January 1, 2012, BCBSMS will be requiring pre-certification for elective (non-emergency) care outside of the state of Mississippi for our new Blue Care members.

You will know if your patient's Blue Care benefit requires pre-certification for out-of-state services when you verify eligibility and benefits via *myAccessBlue*. Once you have verified eligibility and benefit requirements, in order to ensure a smooth continuum of care for your Blue Care patient, it is important that you collaborate with the out of state provider, complete the pre-certification process and obtain pre-certification approvals before sending the patient to the out-of-state provider. At this time, this does not apply to services, such as lab, that are performed in your office and then sent to an out-of-state referral lab for processing.

Beginning January 1, 2012, you may access the pre-certification forms via the **Prior Authorization Forms** section on the left side of the home page. Based upon the types of services that you are referring out-of-state, please select either the "Inpatient Medical-Surgical Services" or "Outpatient and Professional Services" request forms. Per the forms, you will be instructed to fax the form to the BCBSMS Care Management department. This fax method will be replaced with an electronic process in early 2012.

Please contact us via Contact Blue if you have any questions.

Have a Healthy New Year!

NOTE: As of 12/22/2011 the referenced pre-certification forms are not currently available on website.