



WINTER
2022

GROUP UPDATE

for Employers

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**BlueCross BlueShield
of Alabama**

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

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Screen. Detect. Prevent.

Preventive cancer screenings are important tools for detecting cancer at an early stage, often before symptoms appear. Generally, the earlier cancer is detected, the easier it is to treat or cure. Throughout the pandemic, clinicians and population health experts expressed concern over missed preventive cancer screenings. Many people were unable to have their preventive cancer screenings during the pandemic, which may increase the possibility that cancers might be detected in later stages.

~41% *of U.S. adults delayed or avoided medical care during the pandemic*

As 2022 comes to an end, preventive cancer screenings for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama members have still not rebounded to pre-pandemic levels. Breast cancer, colon cancer and cervical cancer are three of the main preventive cancer screenings. While colon cancer screenings have stayed relatively stable over the past several years, breast cancer and cervical cancer screenings are still below pre-pandemic levels.

During the pandemic, testing for breast, colorectal and cervical cancer dropped **80%**

Routine cancer screenings can detect cancer early and increases the likelihood treatment will be successful, saving lives. Let's get appointments back on the books by encouraging employees to prioritize their eligible routine cancer screenings.

<https://blogs.cdc.gov/cancer/2022/02/08/cancer-doesnt-wait-and-neither-should-you/>



Rx Savings Solutions (RxSS™) Can Help Reduce Prescription Drug Costs

On January 1, 2023, to help save money on prescription drugs, your employees and their covered family members will have access to the new **Rx Savings Solutions (RxSS™)** online tool.

RxSS is a web-based software solution to help individuals who want to reduce out-of-pocket prescription drug costs and improve their prescription drug experience through medication affordability and adherence. RxSS will analyze an individual's drug claims in real-time and will proactively identify savings opportunities based on eligibility, formulary, network and benefit information. When needed, the RxSS team can work with providers to obtain a new prescription for a lower cost medication.

Unlike today where individuals may not have access to a real-time prescription drug cost benefit tool, the RxSS tool can compare drug costs and deliver clinically-equivalent alternative therapy options that are lower in cost, resulting in saving opportunities for both groups and their employees.

Beginning January 1, 2023, your employees can access the RxSS online tool by going to myrxss.com/bcbsal or by logging in to their myBlueCross account at AlabamaBlue.com and clicking on the "Rx Savings Solutions" link found under the heading Manage My Prescriptions.



Rx Savings Solutions is an independent company working with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama to help members find lower price options for prescription medications.

Understanding Employer Shared Responsibility

Annually, employer groups provide Form 1095-C and/or Blue Cross provides 1095-B to confirm to employees that they had Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC). This information is also provided to the IRS.

Blue Cross CANNOT determine the following for employer groups:

- ▶ Was the plan deemed affordable by IRS rules for each employee?
- ▶ Was the plan offered to each employee?

Below is the timeline for reports released on GroupAccess:

- ▶ Test reports available
August-December 2022
- ▶ Production reports available
January 1, 2023
January 8, 2023
January 15, 2023

Enrollment data that was sent to Blue Cross by December 4, 2022, will be reflected in the final file. For enrollment data received after December 4, every effort will be made to process it prior to creating the final file.

What is an ALE?

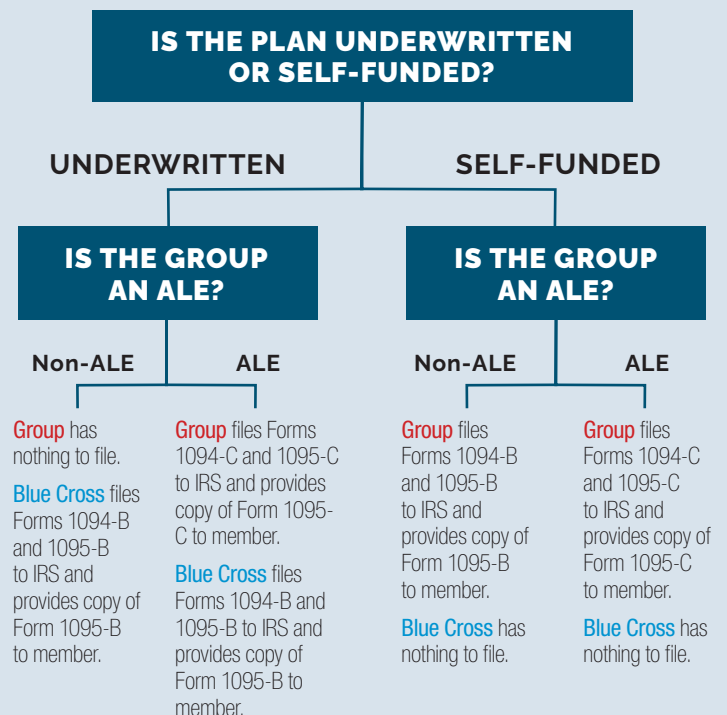
Employer has at least 50 full-time employees, including full-time equivalent employees, on average during the previous calendar year.

Each **group** must determine if it is an **Applicable Large Employer (ALE)** by seeking advice from its legal and tax professionals.

This will determine two things:

1. Who is responsible for the reporting.
2. Which forms to file.

Use the chart below to aid in understanding reporting responsibilities.



New Healthcare Reform Preventive Mandates

PREVENTIVE REQUIREMENT	PUBLISHED DATE	BLUE CROSS EFFECTIVE DATE	CHANGE TO CURRENT BENEFIT?
Routine Immunizations-Recombinant Zoster Vaccine	New recommendation published January 21, 2022	January 21, 2022	YES: Existing immunization; coverage expanded to include individuals with immunodeficient/immunosuppressed health conditions.
Routine Immunizations-Pneumococcal Vaccines	New recommendation published January 28, 2022	January 28, 2022	YES: Addition of two new immunizations into existing routine immunization schedule.
Counseling for Healthy Weight and Weight Gain in Pregnancy	New recommendation published June 1, 2022	June 1, 2022	YES: Addition of preventive medicine counseling aimed at promoting healthy weight gain in pregnancy.
Routine Immunizations-15-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine	New recommendation published September 16, 2022	September 16, 2022	YES: Existing immunization; coverage expanded to include individuals starting at age 2 months.
Multiple Services	Existing recommendation with updated ICD-10 (procedure and diagnosis) & HCPCS coding	October 1, 2022	NO: Applicable procedural and diagnosis coding updates (new/revised/deleted codes) to existing benefit services comprehensively reviewed and operationalized.

HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT GROUP UPDATE?

Please send your feedback to your account management team.