



WINTER
2023

BLUE NEWS

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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Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies

Expectant mothers need special care, and that care should begin as early as possible to ensure babies have the best chance for a healthy start. The Baby Yourself® Maternity Program helps your members get early, thorough care throughout pregnancy, and they can sign up as soon as they find out they are expecting.

This benefit gives enrolled members the opportunity to have a registered nurse follow them throughout their pregnancy. All Baby Yourself nurses are skilled professionals. Their combined experience includes extensive work in OB/GYN settings, prenatal care, labor and delivery, well-baby nurseries, postpartum units and newborn care.

HOW TO ENROLL

Members can enroll in Baby Yourself three ways:

- ▶ Call 1-800-222-4379
- ▶ Register online at AlabamaBlue.com/BabyYourself
- ▶ Download the Baby Yourself App*

*Eligible program participants** receive:*



Personalized support and educational materials



A personal nurse you can contact throughout your pregnancy



Care coordination for high-risk pregnancies



Useful gifts that support healthy habits

Encourage your employees to sign up for Baby Yourself and take advantage of their benefit.

* There is no charge from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama to download the Baby Yourself app, but rates from your wireless provider may apply.

** For this service you must be a Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama member and enrolled in the Baby Yourself Maternity Program.

This information is for educational purposes only and is not a substitute for personal care from a licensed physician. Please consult your physician for diagnosis and treatment options.





Gag Clause Prohibition Compliance Attestation (GCPCA)

Group health plans must annually submit a **Gag Clause Prohibition Compliance Attestation (GCPCA)** to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), as required by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA).

The CAA requires group health plans to submit an annual attestation that its provider network contracts do not prevent the disclosure to members, plan sponsors or referring providers of cost, quality of care data or certain other information. A healthcare provider, network or association of providers, or other service provider may place reasonable restrictions on the public disclosure of this information.

The initial GCPCA reporting period is from December 27, 2020, to the day the report is filed with CMS. The initial report must be filed no later than December 31, 2023, and then by December 31 every year thereafter.

Blue Cross is willing to attest to CMS on behalf of group health plan(s) for any time period the group health plan(s) was active with us from December 27, 2020, to the day the report is filed. Such attestation is limited to provider agreements entered into by Blue Cross. Groups were notified of GCPCA reporting requirements via email and instructed to confirm that the group requests Blue Cross to attest on behalf of their health plan(s) and also provide needed data to Blue Cross by October 31, 2023, in order for us to attest on the group's behalf.

If Blue Cross did not receive the required attestation confirmation and data information by October 31, 2023, Blue Cross will not attest to the federal government on behalf of the group health plan(s). Instead, the group is responsible for providing all required reporting information in order to meet the GCPCA requirement under CAA.

Updates to the Insights Reporting Tool

Blue Cross released new content and functionality to the Insights reporting tool in June 2023.

This release included the following updates:

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH (SDOH) DASHBOARD

- ▶ This new dashboard, located under the Clinical menu selection, displays Membership, Key Performance Indicators and Quality Measures by Social Vulnerability Index (SVI).

WATCH LIST NOTIFICATION OPTION

- ▶ This new option allows group users to opt in or out of receiving Watch List notification emails.

TOTAL PAID PER CONTRACT PER MONTH (PCPM)

- ▶ The PCPM measure is now included on the Cost dashboard in the Total section at the bottom of the report.

PDF PACKET

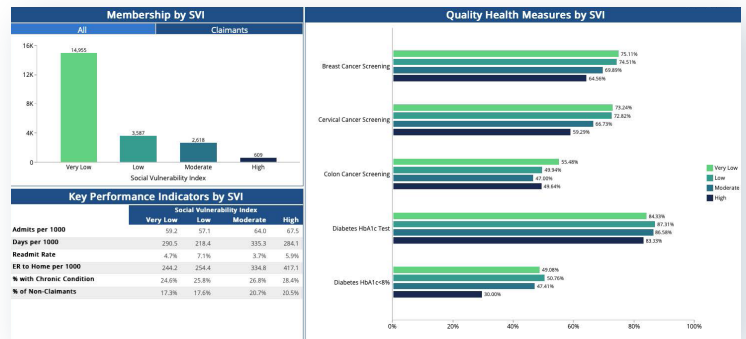
- ▶ The PDF packet now includes the new SDoH dashboard.

MONTHLY CLAIMS RECONCILIATION

- ▶ The reconciliation process is no longer restricted to Saturday; therefore, scheduled monthly reports will now be available earlier in the month.

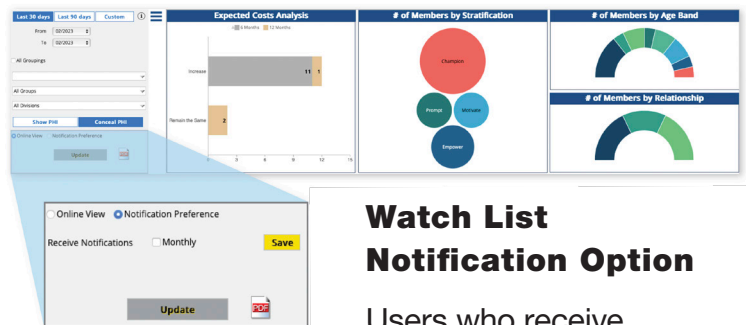
COLON CANCER SCREENING MEASURE

- ▶ This measure was updated to reflect the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendation for adults starting at age 45. The previous measure was age 50 and older. These changes were made on the KPI dashboard and the Preventive, Clinical Quality and Compliance Measures dashboard.



SDoH Dashboard

Social Vulnerability Index is a measure created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to aid in the identification of communities that may be vulnerable or at risk for experiencing negative health impacts when confronted with external stressors such as disasters or disease outbreaks.



Watch List Notification Option

Users who receive automated monthly Watch List notifications can log into Insights and select if they no longer want to receive email notifications.



Additional information about these updates can be found in the Release Notes under the Help section of the tool. For detailed functionality and instructions on the Insights reporting tool, please refer to the User Guide also found under the Help section.

As always, please reach out to InsightsFeedback@bcbsal.org with any questions or suggestions you may have.

Understanding Employer Shared Responsibility

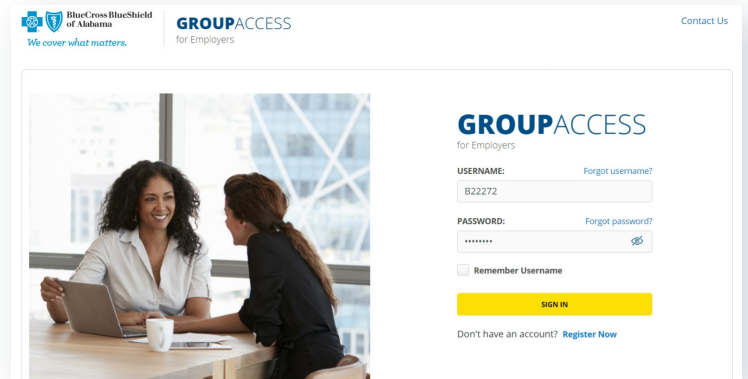
Annually, employer groups provide Form 1095-C and/or Blue Cross provides 1095-B to confirm to employees that they had Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC). This information is also provided to the IRS.

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 2023
- ▶ Production reports available
January 7, 2024
January 14, 2024
January 21, 2024



Enrollment data that was sent to Blue Cross by December 4, 2023, 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.

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.

What is an ALE?

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

IS THE PLAN UNDERWRITTEN OR SELF-FUNDED?

UNDERWRITTEN

SELF-FUNDED

IS THE GROUP AN ALE?

Non-ALE

ALE

IS THE GROUP AN ALE?

Non-ALE

ALE

Group has nothing to file.
Blue Cross files Forms 1094-B and 1095-B to IRS. 1095-B forms are available on MyBlueCross or by calling Customer Service.

Group files Forms 1094-C and 1095-C to IRS and provides copy of Form 1095-C to member.
Blue Cross files Forms 1094-B and 1095-B to IRS. 1095-B forms are available on MyBlueCross or by calling Customer Service.

Group files Forms 1094-B and 1095-B to IRS and provides copy of Form 1095-B to member.
Blue Cross has nothing to file.

Group files Forms 1094-C and 1095-C to IRS and provides copy of Form 1095-C to member.
Blue Cross has nothing to file.

New Healthcare Reform Preventive Mandates

PREVENTIVE REQUIREMENT	PUBLISHED DATE	BLUE CROSS EFFECTIVE DATE	CHANGE TO CURRENT BENEFIT?
Routine Immunizations - RSV vaccines (Adult)	New recommendation published July 21, 2023	July 21, 2023	YES: Addition of two new immunizations into existing routine immunization schedule.
Routine Immunizations - RSV vaccines (Infants/Young Children)	New recommendation published August 25, 2023	August 25, 2023	YES: Addition of new immunization into existing routine immunization schedule.
Routine Immunizations - COVID-19 vaccines	New recommendation published September 12, 2023	September 12, 2023	YES: Addition of new immunizations into existing routine immunization schedule.
Routine Immunizations - RSV vaccine (Maternal)	New recommendation published September 22, 2023	September 22, 2023	YES: Expansion of indication for recently approved adult RSV vaccine that is included routine immunization.
Multiple Services	Existing recommendation with updated ICD-10 (procedure and diagnosis) & HCPCS coding	October 1, 2023	NO: Applicable procedural and diagnosis coding updates (new/ revised/deleted codes) to existing benefit services comprehensively reviewed and operationalized.

HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT BLUE NEWS?

Please send your feedback to your account management team.

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