

PROVIDERS' NEWS

COVID-19 Update *July 17, 2020*

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COVID-19 Expanded Benefits Extension

The voluntary, expanded COVID-19-related benefits announced for certain Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Health Advantage insured health plans and individual policies were set to expire on July 25, 2020 to align with the federally mandated COVID-19 coverage provision in the FFCRA and the CARES Act.

Because the federal deadline has not yet been extended, Arkansas Blue Cross and Health Advantage are extending temporary COVID-19 benefits until at least August 17 (the deadline put into place by the State of Arkansas). If the federal emergency is extended past July 25, benefits will be extended to the federal emergency period.

This extension applies only to members covered by Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Health Advantage insured plans and policies, and may or may not apply to individuals covered by employer self-funded health plans administered by Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Health Advantage. Providers should continue to check applicable coverage policies when treating members covered by such self-funded plans. This update does not impact related changes for Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement members.