



Benefit Mandates and Enhancements for 2009

There are two new Rhode Island state laws affecting your healthcare coverage. These laws limit your copayments for ambulance services and provide coverage for enteral nutrition products.

Cap on Ambulance Co-pay

As part of this law, beginning on January 1, 2009, your copayment for a single ambulance service can be no more than \$50.

This law applies to all non-Medicare commercial products (HealthMate Coast-to-Coast, BlueCHiP Coordinated Health Plan, BlueCHiP for Healthy Options, and Classic Blue) with the exception of HealthMate Coast-to-Coast HDHP and BlueSolutions for HSA.

Oral Enteral Nutrition Products

Joining Massachusetts and 33 other states with similar laws, Rhode Island is mandating coverage up to \$2,500 per member, per year for oral enteral nutrition products, starting on January 1, 2009.

This law requires coverage for oral enteral nutrition products and low protein food products when they are not a sole source of nutrition for patients with malabsorption caused by Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, gastroesophageal reflux, chronic intestinal pseudo obstruction, and inherited diseases of amino acids and organic acids. This law does not impact coverage for sole source enteral nutrition products that are administered through a feeding tube which are a covered benefit for all members.

To receive coverage for oral enteral nutrition products, pre-authorization from your physician is recommended. In addition, members must also complete a reimbursement form for the food products purchased. Our Provider and Member sections of BCBSRI.com provide both the preauthorization and reimbursement forms, along with the full text of the Medical Policy with instructions on obtaining and submitting the required forms.

This mandate applies to all non-Medicare commercial products (HealthMate Coast-to-Coast, HealthMate Coast-to-Coast HDHP, BlueCHiP Coordinated Health Plans, BlueCHiP for Healthy Options, Classic Blue, BlueSolutions for HRA and BlueSolutions for HSA plans.)



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