

## **Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare Q2 2022 Employer Meeting**

Thank you to those who were able to attend the Coalition's Employer Group meeting on June 8. For those who could not attend or would benefit from a recap, here are some important takeaways from the meeting. Please reach out to your Capital Blue Cross account executive if you have any questions or would like a copy of the meeting presentation.

### **Annual Claims Review**

Dr. Rob Muscalus, Capital's Medical Director for Client Analytics, provided more than two years' worth of Coalition member claims utilization. Generally, his findings and analysis included the following points:

- Many key performance indicators indicated a sizeable utilization rate increase from 2020 to 2021, largely due to members delaying preventive and elective care during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Muscalus suggested this trend may continue for a while.
- Provider distribution (i.e., top utilized providers) has remained relatively steady.
- Preventive services, mental health and wellness, and utilization management continue to be areas of focus.

### **Population Health Management Insights**

Mary Elizabeth Myers, a Capital population health consultant, presented an overview of several key areas of interest for Coalition employer groups. Her insights included:

- Improved HEDIS performance within certain preventive care screenings and chronic condition management.
- How much better value-based providers are performing than their non value-based peers on closing or mitigating gaps in preventive care.
- The emergence of using social determinants of health when identifying areas of need within a population or geographic region.
- A general overview of Capital's health equity strategy.

### **Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) Update**

As Capital noted at earlier meetings, the CAA is a \$2.3 trillion spending package that includes some of the most significant new private health plan provisions since the Affordable Care Act. There are 14 key health provisions, including surprise billing, ID card requirements, advanced

explanations of benefits, continuity of care, mental health parity, drug cost reporting, price comparison tools, and more.

Members of Capital's Legal and Network teams joined the meeting to discuss the surprise billing provision and transparency in coverage rules that take effect on July 1. Capital will publish a link to machine-readable files on its website on July 1, which employers may place on their sites to meet CAA requirements. Capital encourages Coalition members to consult with their legal counsel for more information about complying with the CAA.

Capital continues working diligently to comply with all CAA requirements. We have established multiple workgroups and are consulting regularly with the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association and outside consultants. The latest updates and information can be found at [CapitalBlueCross.com](http://CapitalBlueCross.com).

**Save the Date!**

The next Capital/Coalition quarterly employer meeting will be on Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 9am. More details in an invitation to follow, later this summer.

For more information on any of these topics or programs, please contact your Capital Blue Cross account executive.