

VOLUME 17 | ISSUE 3 | FALL 2021

EMPLOYER MEETING: CAPITAL BLUECROSS

Capital BLUE

AUGUST 24, 2021 – EMPLOYER MEETING

Thank you to all who attended our LVBCH Employer Group meeting by Zoom on August 24. This recap includes some important takeaways from the meeting. Please reach out to your account executive if you have any questions or would like a copy of the meeting presentation.

Biosimilars

Biosimilars, the fastest growing class of therapeutic products in the U.S., provide additional treatment options for certain illnesses and may lower treatment costs. Biosimilars are biological products that are highly similar based on purity, chemical identity, and potency and have no meaningful clinical difference in terms of safety, purity, and potency when compared to the reference drug. There are 29 biosimilars currently FDA approved with more than 80 additional biosimilars in development.

There is some hesitancy in embracing the use of biosimilars, but these products could lead to major cost savings across the healthcare system. Education and successful case studies will help facilitate faster adoption of biosimilars in the U.S.

COVID-19

As employees have returned or may soon return to the workplace, they may feel stress or anxiety about their safety, changing their daily routine, social interactions, and taking care of their kids, pets, and parents when they return to the office. Here are some ideas businesses can consider to support a seamless transition back to work.

- Reorient workers to their office location, especially if it's been a while since they've last worked in an office building.
- Be aware of health and safety protocols while sharing information with employees.
- Set clear expectations for employees.
- Support individual personal boundaries.
- Continue to be data driven when making decisions about the health and safety of your employees.

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From May 1 through July 31 across the Coalition, we saw a steady stream of COVID-19-related claims:

- Emergency department claims = 56
- Suspected COVID-19 claims = 3,190
- Lab tests conducted = 9,584
- ICU claims = 2
- Ventilator claims and/or deaths = 0
- Paid adjusted claims for COVID-19 diagnoses, lab tests, and suspected COVID-19 = \$1.6M and pending claims = \$210K

Digital Diabetes Solutions

Diabetes is a nationwide epidemic. 88 million Americans have prediabetes and are at risk of developing diabetes and another 34 million Americans have already been diagnosed with diabetes. People with diabetes have 2.3 times higher than average medical expenditures. With new digital programs, Capital Blue Cross is committed to helping members prevent, manage, and even reverse diabetes.

For diabetes prevention and management, Capital Blue Cross has partnered with Omada Health to launch a digital diabetes engagement platform in October. This program is NCQA accredited and has no cost share for eligible members. Through the use of technology, including online peer groups, professional health coaches, and interactive lessons, participants will have a personalized experience based on their needs and health goals.

Members already diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes will be able to participate in the new diabetes reversal program from Virta Health—available as an opt-in program for groups this fall. This program provides the participant with a starter kit, personal health coach, medical supervisor, and on-demand resources at no cost to the member.

Onlife Health

To further maximize the value of your company's health plan and to enhance the employee experience, Capital Blue Cross is introducing Onlife Health, a new Healthy Blue Rewards platform. Implementation is already underway and will be available January 2022.

This new platform will provide groups with new features, such as wellness resources, personal challenges, custom marketing tiles, and a comprehensive reporting package, while providing employees with a more personalized experience, a mobile app, rewardable activities, and additional tools and resources.

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Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) Updates

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 EOBs, continuity of care, mental health parity, drug cost reporting, price comparison tools, and more. Capital Blue Cross is working with partners and stakeholders to implement CAA requirements and will provide more information at CapitalBlueCross.com as it becomes available.

Medicare Outreach

Capital Blue Cross reaches out to your members, who are close to turning 65, through digital and direct mail campaigns and at the Capital Blue Cross Connect health and wellness centers. For these members, we offer various educational programs, seminars, collateral, and even a helpline to get their questions answered and to find out all the information they need to transition to a Medicare plan.

Save the Date!

We look forward to seeing you at the LVBCH and Capital Blue Cross holiday luncheon on Friday, December 17, at Melt located in The Promenade Shops at Saucon Valley.

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