

**Blue Shield of California
Endorsement to your HMO Plan**

This Endorsement should be attached to, and is made part of, your Blue Shield of California Evidence of Coverage (EOC). Please retain it for your records.

Effective **January 1, 2022**, your Evidence of Coverage is amended as described below. For ease of review, strikethroughs indicate deleted text and underlining indicates added text.

1. The following revisions have been made to the **Teladoc** section in the **Other ways to access care** section:

Teladoc, a Third-Party Corporate Telehealth Provider, provides primary care and behavioral health consultations by phone or online.

2. The following revisions have been made to the **Telebehavioral health services** section in the **Other ways to access care** section:

Online telebehavioral health services for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders are available through MHPA Participating Providers and are a Covered Service regardless of your age. Telebehavioral health includes counseling services, psychotherapy, and medication management with a mental health provider. If you are currently receiving telebehavioral health services for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders, you can continue to receive those services with the MHPA Participating Provider rather than switching to a Third-Party Corporate Telehealth Provider. Visit blueshieldca.com and click on Find a Doctor to access the MHPA network.

3. The following revisions have been made to the **Diagnostic X-ray, imaging, pathology, laboratory, and other testing services** section:

Benefits include:

- Diagnostic and therapeutic imaging services, such as X-rays and ultrasounds;
- Radiological and nuclear imaging, including CT, PET, and MRI scans;
- COVID-19 diagnostic testing, screening testing, and related healthcare services. Note, Medical Necessity requirements do not apply for COVID-19 screening testing;
- Reimbursement for over-the-counter at-home COVID-19 tests. The reimbursement is allowed for up to 8 tests per Member per month. See the *Claims for Emergency or Urgent Services* section for information about how to submit a claim for repayment for this Benefit;
- Sexually transmitted disease home testing kits, including any laboratory costs of processing the kit. A Physician or other Health Care Provider's order must be provided for coverage;

- Clinical pathology services;
- Laboratory services;
- Other areas of diagnostic testing, including respiratory, neurological, vascular, cardiological, genetic, and cerebrovascular; and
- Prenatal diagnosis of genetic disorders of the fetus in cases of high-risk pregnancy.

Laboratory or imaging services performed as part of a preventive health screening are covered under the Preventive Health Services Benefit.

For services provided by Participating Providers, Blue Shield will waive Cost Shares for COVID-19 diagnostic testing, screening testing, and related services. During the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, Blue Shield will waive Cost Shares for COVID-19 diagnostic testing and related services from Non-Participating Providers.

Blue Shield encourages Members to seek services from Participating Providers to avoid paying extra fees. Some Non-Participating Providers may charge extra fees that are not covered by Blue Shield. Any fees not covered by Blue Shield will be the Member's responsibility. See the *How to access care* section for information about Participating and Non-Participating Providers.

4. The following revisions have been made to the **Physician and other professional services** section:

Benefits include:

- Office visits for examination, diagnosis, counseling, education, consultation, and treatment;
- Specialist office visits;
- Urgent care center visits;
- Second medical opinions;
- Administration of injectable medications;
- Outpatient services;
- Inpatient services in a Hospital, Skilled Nursing Facility, residential treatment center, or emergency room;
- Home visits;
- Telehealth consultations, provided remotely via communication technologies, for examination, diagnosis, counseling, education, and treatment. Coverage for these services will be on the same basis and to the same extent as a service conducted in person; and
- Teladoc primary care consultations.

5. The following revisions have been made to the **Preventive Health Services** section:

Benefits include:

- Evidence-based items, drugs, or services that have a rating of A or B in the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), such as:

- Screening for cancer, such as colorectal cancer, cervical cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer;
- Screening for HPV;
- Screening for osteoporosis; and
- Health education;
- Immunizations recommended by either the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or the most current version of the Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule/United States, jointly adopted by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, and the American Academy of Family Physicians;
- Evidence-informed preventive care and screenings for infants, children, and adolescents as listed in the comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration, including screening for risk of lead exposure and blood lead levels in children at risk for lead poisoning;
- Adverse Childhood Experiences screenings;
- California Prenatal Screening Program; and
- Additional preventive care and screenings for women not described above as provided for in comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration. See the [Family planning Benefits](#) section for more information.

If there is a new recommendation or guideline in any of the resources described above, Blue Shield will have at least one year to implement coverage. The new recommendation will be covered as a Preventive Health Service in the plan year that begins after that year. However, for COVID-19 Preventive Health Services and Preventive Health Services for a disease for which the Governor of the State of California has declared a public health emergency, a new recommendation will be covered within 15 business days.

5. The following revisions have been made to item 44/15 in the **General exclusions and limitations** section:

Home testing devices and monitoring equipment. This exclusion does not apply to COVID-19 at-home testing kits, sexually transmitted disease home testing kits, or to ~~to~~ items specifically described in the *Durable medical equipment* or *Diabetes care services* sections.

6. The following definitions have been added to the **Definitions** section:

Adverse Childhood Experiences – An event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.

Third-Party Corporate Telehealth Provider – A corporation directly contracted with Blue Shield that provides health care services exclusively through a telehealth technology platform and has no physical location at which a Member can receive services.

7. The following notice has been added to the **Notices about your plan** section:

Notice about telehealth: You have the right to access your medical records. The records of any services provided to you through a Third-Party Corporate Telehealth Provider will be shared with your PCP, unless you object.

You can receive Covered Services on an in-person basis or via telehealth, if available, from your PCP, treating specialist, or from another contracting individual health professional, contracting clinic, or contracting health facility consistent with the Timely Access to Care section.

If your plan includes Covered Services from Non-Participating Providers, you can receive the Covered Service either on an in-person basis or via telehealth.

Please see the Health care professionals and facilities section for additional information.

Effective **July 1, 2022**, your Evidence of Coverage is amended as described below. For ease of review, strikethroughs indicate deleted text and underlining indicates added text.

8. The following revision has been added to the **Your payment information** section:

Accrual balance

Blue Shield provides a summary of your accrual balances toward your Calendar Year Deductible, if any, and Out-of-Pocket Maximum for every month in which your Benefits were used until the full amount has been met. This summary will be mailed to you unless you opt to receive it electronically or have already opted out of paper mailings. You can opt back in to receive paper mailings at any time or elect to receive your balance summary electronically by logging into your member portal online and updating your communication preferences, or by calling [Customer Service/Shield Concierge] at the number on the back of your ID card. You can also check your accrual balances at any time by logging into your member portal online or calling [Customer Service/Shield Concierge].

9. The following notice has been added to the **Notices about your plan** section:

Notice about confidential communication requests: A health plan shall notify Subscribers and enrollees that they may request a confidential communication pursuant to the following and how to make the request.

A health plan shall permit Subscribers and enrollees to request, and shall accommodate requests for, confidential communication in the form and format requested by the individual, if it is readily producible in the requested form and format, or at alternative locations.

A health plan may require the Subscriber or enrollee to make a request for a confidential communication in writing or by electronic transmission.

The confidential communication request shall be valid until the Subscriber or enrollee submits a revocation of the request or a new confidential communication request is submitted.

The confidential communication request shall apply to all communications that disclose medical information or provider name and address related to receipt of medical services by the individual requesting the confidential communication.

A confidential communication request may be submitted in writing to Blue Shield of California at the mailing address, email address, or fax number at the bottom of this page. A confidential communication form, available by going to blueshieldca.com/privacy and clicking on "privacy forms," may be used when submitting a confidential communication request in writing, but it is not required.

Once in place, a valid confidential communication request prevents Blue Shield from: 1. Requiring the protected individual to obtain the primary Subscriber's or other enrollee's authorization to receive sensitive services or submit a claim for sensitive services if the protected individual has the right to consent to care; and 2. Disclosing medical information relating to sensitive health services provided to a protected individual to the primary Subscriber or any plan enrollees other than the protected individual receiving care, absent an express written authorization of the protected individual receiving care.

You may return this completed and signed form via any of these options:

Mail: Blue Shield of California Privacy Office, P.O. Box 272540, Chico CA, 95927-2540

Email: privacy@blueshieldca.com

Fax: 1-800-201-9020