

Introduction

MedicareBlue PPO is a Medicare Advantage Regional PPO product authorized under the Medicare Modernization Act. MedicareBlue PPO offers a network of physicians, specialists, and hospitals allowing members access to benefits both in- and out-of-network. MedicareBlue PPO offers medical and prescription drug (Part D) coverage benefit plan choices for enrolled members.

MedicareBlue PPO is federally regulated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Most state health plan requirements are pre-empted for MedicareBlue PPO and are not applicable to MedicareBlue PPO.

MedicareBlue PPO is an alliance of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans that have contracted with CMS to offer MedicareBlue PPO across a seven-state region (Region 19) including Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. Each local Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan is responsible for contracting and credentialing in their home state.

Veridign, formerly known as AmeriHealth, manages claims and appeals processing functions, including provider and member services. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota performs all medical management functions for MedicareBlue PPO members, and local Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans offering MedicareBlue PPO manage provider contracting and sales and marketing efforts.

Purpose of this Guide

This Provider Guide is dedicated to keeping contracted providers and staff informed regarding the operational policies and procedures for MedicareBlue PPO.

The contents of this Guide are contractually binding for compliance based on your provider service agreement. Therefore, it is important for you to familiarize yourself with the information provided, and have it readily available as a reference.

This Provider Guide is also defined as the Policy and Procedure Manual or the Provider Manual per your local Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan's provider service agreement or contract.

For your convenience, this Guide can be accessed online at: **www.YourMedicareSolutions.com**. As changes occur that affect this Guide, we will continue to make updates online. A *Summary of Changes* page gives a brief overview of changes made since the last date the Guide was posted on our website. The summary identifies the page(s) affected and provides a link to take you to the update.

If it is your preference to receive this guide on CD or in print, please contact your local Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan for availability and ordering instructions. Contact information is found in *Chapter 1 – Contact and Administrative Information*.

MedicareBlue PPO and Group MedicareBlue PPO are regional Medicare Advantage Plans with a Medicare contract. MedicareBlue PPO and Group MedicareBlue PPO coverage is separately issued by one of the following plans: Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa,* Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota,* Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana,* Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska,* Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota,* Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota,* and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming.*

*Independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association