

HEALTH BENEFITS E-NEWS

*Department of Human Resource
Management
Office of Health Benefits*

November 23, 2020

Valley Health System and Anthem Network

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield has notified the Department of Human Resource Management health benefits program that unless an agreement is reached, the Valley Health System will no longer participate in the Anthem network effective December 31, 2020. The Valley Health System includes hospitals, facilities and physicians in the Winchester area.

While negotiations continue, if this change occurs, the Valley Health System will be out of network beginning January 1, 2021. COVA Care and COVA HDHP members may be balance billed by Valley Health facilities and doctors on or after that date. This means they may pay more for care unless they seek emergency services or have the COVA Care out-of-network benefit.

Please note:

COVA Care Members

- If the member is an inpatient at a Valley Health System facility on December 31, 2020, the health plan will continue to honor the in-network reimbursement rate for the hospital until discharge. The member should not be billed for the balance.
- Members undergoing treatment on or after the deadline from a Valley Health System doctor, or who have a procedure scheduled, may continue to have in-network benefits for a limited time, as long as a continuation of care form is filed.
- Except in an emergency, as defined in the member handbook, services at any of the out-of-network facilities **would not be covered** unless the member has purchased the out-of-network option. Members with out-of-network coverage might be balance billed by the facility since the plan will only consider paying up to the allowable charge. Members are also subject to a 25 percent reduction in the amount paid by the health plan.
- Hospital services not available in the area would continue to be paid at the in-network level with the possibility of balance billing by the facility. Members should check with Anthem prior to having a procedure performed.
- If a scheduled procedure will occur after December 31, the member should seek services at other in-network facilities in the local area.

COVA HDHP Members

- Except in an emergency, as defined in the member handbook, services at any of the out-of-network facilities **would not be covered** since the COVA HDHP has no out-of-network coverage.
- If the member is an inpatient at a Valley Health System facility on December 31, 2020, the health plan will continue to honor the in-network reimbursement rate for the hospital until discharge. The member should not be billed for the balance.
- Members undergoing treatment on or after the deadline from a Valley Health System doctor, or who have a procedure scheduled, may continue to have in-network benefits for a limited time, as long as a continuation of care form is filed.

- Hospital services not available in the area would continue to be paid at the in-network level with the possibility of balance billing by the facility. Members should check with Anthem prior to having a procedure performed.
- If a scheduled procedure will occur after December 31, the member should seek services at other in-network facilities in the local area.

Please visit [anthem.com/valleyhealth](https://www.anthem.com/valleyhealth) for any updates, including the continuation of care form, alternative health care doctors and facilities in the region. Anthem provides 100% member access to an acute hospital and physicians within a 60 mile radius (excluding Valley Health).

Thank you.

Please do not reply to this e-mail. You may send inquiries to the Office of Health Benefits mailbox at ohb@dhrm.virginia.gov.