

# ***HEALTH BENEFITS E-NEWS***

*Department of Human Resource  
Management  
Office of Health Benefits*

*November 24, 2020*

## **Bon Secours Mercy Health 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, three Bon Secours Mercy Health hospitals will no longer participate in the Anthem network effective December 1, 2020. The hospitals include Bon Secours Mercy Health - Southern Virginia Regional Medical Center, Emporia; Bon Secours Mercy Health - Southside Regional Medical Center, Petersburg; and Bon Secours Mercy Health - Southampton Memorial Hospital, Franklin.

While negotiations continue, if this change occurs, the impacted Bon Secours Mercy Health hospitals will be out of network beginning December 1, 2020. COVA Care and COVA HDHP members may be balance billed by these Bon Secours Mercy Health hospitals 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 an impacted Bon Secours Mercy Health facility on December 1, 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.
- Bon Secours Mercy Health physicians remain in the Anthem network.
- 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 COVA Care 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 1, 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 an impacted Bon Secours Mercy Health facility on December 1, 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.

- 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 1, the member should seek services at other in-network facilities in the local area.

Please visit [anthem.com/bonsecoursmercyhealth/](https://www.anthem.com/bonsecoursmercyhealth/) 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 the three Bon Secours Mercy Health hospitals).

Thank you.

***Please do no reply to this e-mail. You may send inquiries to the Office of Health Benefits mailbox at [ohb@dhrm.virginia.gov](mailto:ohb@dhrm.virginia.gov).***