

January 2020

## **Benefits update for Special Supplemental Benefits for the Chronically Ill**

Healthy Blue filed a number of supplemental benefits under new guidelines released by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The guidelines, known as Special Supplemental Benefits for the Chronically Ill (SSBCI), allow Medicare Advantage (MA) plans to offer expanded benefits/services, provided they have a reasonable expectation of improving or maintaining the health or overall function of the enrollee as it relates to the chronic condition or illness.

New benefits filed under the new SSBCI guideline include nutrition benefits (Healthy Nutrition, Prescribed Nutrition), a pest control benefit and a benefit providing support to our members with service dogs through the *Americans with Disabilities Act*. Not all benefits are available on every MA plan.

To comply with CMS guidance, Healthy Blue **must** ascertain that the member meets the criteria defined by CMS for being chronically ill. In some cases, information will be available in patient records. In other cases, Health Blue will need to contact providers to ensure that member has a qualifying condition and that, as the member's physician, they concur this benefit meets the standards of helping improve or maintain the member's condition.

Healthy Blue encourages our members to consult with their physician when selecting a benefit. As some of these benefits are elective and include other options, providers may be able to help their patients make the most appropriate benefit choice for their needs.

For more information on SSBCI, visit the CMS website at <https://go.cms.gov/36iC952>.

**<https://providers.healthybluel.com>**

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