



What Patients Need to Know - Right to Continuity of Care

BCBSGa CHRONIC ILLNESS PROVISION

In the BCBSGa HMO and PPO contracts, for both primary care physicians (PCPs) and specialist physicians, there is a patient protective provision which allows patients being treated for a “chronic illness” the “right to continue to receive health care services” from their physician for an additional sixty (60) days following the termination of the contract. It further states that services received during such an extension will be covered as an in-network benefit.

We have included a copy of this provision from our HMO contract for your review. Please be aware in the language below, Represented Provider refers to the physician and Member refers to the patient.

- 12.6 If this Agreement is terminated, Represented Providers shall continue to provide Covered Services under the terms of this Agreement to Members who are hospital inpatients or receiving care in a freestanding ambulatory facility. If Represented Provider is treating or providing care to a Member for a chronic or terminal illness, the Member shall have the right to continue to receive health care services from Represented Provider for a period of up to sixty (60) days from the date of termination. If Represented Provider is treating a Member in connection with a pregnancy, Represented Provider may continue to treat the Member throughout the remainder of that pregnancy including six (6) week post delivery care. In such circumstances, BCBSHP will compensate Represented Provider for such Covered Services provided in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

DEFINITION OF CHRONIC ILLNESS

A chronic illness is one lasting 3 months or more, by the definition of the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics. Examples of chronic illnesses are any conditions that requires you to take regular medication or receive regular treatment such as allergies, heart disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, asthma, ADHD, depression, sleep apnea and osteoporosis just to name a few.