

PROVIDER QUICK POINTS

PROVIDER INFORMATION



September 22, 2021

Provider Sharing of Protected Health Information (PHI) with Care Coordinators for Minnesota Health Care Program Members

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) holds provider contracts with delegated agencies to perform care coordination services for the Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+) and SecureBlue (MSHO) populations. The purpose of this Quick Point is to clarify for providers that proper authorization exists for data sharing in accordance with the provider agreements and consistent with state and federal laws for these members.

Care Coordination services are provided to Blue Cross MSHO and MSC+ members by contracted delegate county social service and public health agencies, private case management organizations and care systems. The role of a care coordinator is to coordinate the provision of health and long term supports and services across settings of care including transitions between care settings.

To maintain continuity of care, all contracted providers, including hospitals, are required to share member health information with the Care Coordinators. The purpose of sharing this information is to reduce incidents related to fragmented or unsafe care and to reduce readmissions for the same condition.

Blue Cross, its delegated Care Coordinators, and health providers are covered entities under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), and are governed by the rules established under HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 & 164 (“the Privacy Rule”). The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) Medical Assistance Application for beneficiaries over the age of 65 (DHS Form 3876) also authorizes sharing of medical information between health providers and health plan contractors to facilitate coordination of health care services.

Care Coordinators are covered entities authorized to collect, use, and share a member’s protected health information. Providers can speak with and receive/share information with a Care Coordinator without a separate release of information.

Products Impacted

- Minnesota Seniors Care Plus (MSC+)
- Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO)

Questions?

If you have questions regarding a member enrolled in a Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) plan or need to validate the contracting status of a Care Coordinator, please contact provider services at **1-866-518-8448**.