

HEDIS[®] Annual Data Collection Reminder

In the Fourth Quarter 2014 *Capsule News*, we provided an overview of the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) and the annual data collection process.

As a reminder, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana (BCBSMT) will begin contacting physician offices and facilities over the next few months in preparation for the collection of annual HEDIS data.

In an effort to decrease interruption of the day-to-day functions of your office, BCBSMT offers alternative methods of medical record collection in place of on-site visits, such as the option to fax requested medical records to BCBSMT or to send electronic medical records to us via secure email. The annual HEDIS data collection process includes the following:

- A nurse from BCBSMT will be contacting your office to obtain key contact information and confirm your preferred data collection method (fax, secure email or on-site visit).
- Appointments for on-site visits also may be scheduled with your staff.
- You will receive a letter or fax from BCBSMT outlining the information that is being requested, including a list with members' names and the identified measures that will be reviewed. **Please send medical records only upon request and only for the members listed in the letter from BCBSMT.** A timely response – within 5 business days – is requested.

All data collected from medical records are protected by the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996. The HIPAA Privacy Rule (CFR 160, 164) allows the collection and release of HEDIS data without patient consent or authorization.

If you have questions regarding on-site nurse visits, alternative means of data collection or requests for medical records, please contact our HEDIS Chart Review Coordinator at 800-447-7828.

Aggregated 2015 HEDIS results will be reported in an upcoming issue of *Capsule News*. To view the 2014 HEDIS results, visit the HEDIS Reports page at <https://www.bcbsmt.com/Pages/provhedis.aspx>.

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