

# Provider Network Participation Policy

## Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana Network Management Administrative Policy Version: 12

Original Effective Date: 05/03/2004  
Version Effective Date: 07/31/2020  
Replaces: Version 11

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### Scope

This policy applies to the following networks:

- BCBSMT Traditional Participating Provider
  - BCBSMT Managed Care
  - Montana HealthLink (PPO) - *includes HealthLink PPO network with the traditional provider network wrapped around it for BlueCard purposes*
  - Healthy Montana Kids (HMK)
  - MedicareBlue PPO
  - Blue Focus POS
  - Blue Options POS
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### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to document the types of professional and facility Health Care Providers (providers) and specialties allowed to participate in the provider networks offered or administered by BCBSMT.

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### Policy

BCBSMT contracts with providers located in and licensed by the State of Montana, or in the contiguous counties bordering the state of Montana, as necessary, to provide the benefits and services described in the health plans offered or administered by BCBSMT.

BCBSMT does not contract with out-of-state ancillary DME, Laboratory and Specialty Pharmacy Providers unless there is a compelling reason to do so.

Providers are not allowed to be a participating provider at one location and a nonparticipating provider at another location.

- The only exception to this requirement is allowed when the provider is an owner at one location and a non-owner employee at the other location, and the employer at the location where the provider is employed requires participation for employment. When this exception does occur, BCBSMT will not list the provider in any of its provider directories.
- In addition to the above, BCBSMT may individually consider circumstances in the interest of BCBSMT members and to preclude any confusion in the marketplace.

BCBSMT recognizes the following provider types or specialties:

- Acupuncturist
- Air Ambulance
- Applied Behavioral Analyst
- Audiologist
- Autism DX and/or TX Agency
- Birthing Center
- Certified Diabetic Educator
- Certified Nurse Midwife
- Certified Nurse Specialist
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
- Chemical Dependency Center
- Chiropractor
- Clinical Pharmacists
- Dentist
- Dialysis Centers
- Direct Entry Midwife
- Durable Medical Equipment (DME)
- Family Planning
- Federally Qualified Health Center
- Ground Ambulance
- Home Health
- Hospice Care
- Hospital
- Indian Health Services
- Inpatient Mental Health Facility
- I.V. Infusion Therapy (Home Infusion)
- Laboratory
- Licensed Addiction Counselor
- Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist
- Mental Health Center
- Mobile Imaging
- Naturopath
- Nurse Practitioner
- Occupational Therapist
- Optometrist
- Outpatient Laboratory and X-Ray Facility
- Oxygen Suppliers
- Physical Therapist
- Physician Assistant
- Physician
- Podiatrist
- Psychologist
- Public Health Department
- Radiology Center
- Registered Dietician
- Residential Treatment Center
- Rural Health Clinic
- Skilled Nursing Facility
- Sleep Center/Lab
- Speech Therapist
- Surgery Center
- Therapeutic Group Home (HMK only)
- Vascular Diagnostic Services

## **BCBSMT Traditional Participating Provider Network**

The BCBSMT Traditional Participating Provider Network includes all contractible provider types, **except for**:

- Audiologist
- Certified Diabetic Educator
- Direct Entry Midwife
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Ground Ambulance
- Rural Health Clinics
- Therapeutic Group Home

Credentialing is required for all provider types prior to participation in the Traditional Participating Provider Network, with the exception of the following:

- Autism DX and/or TX Agency
  - Family Planning
  - Public Health Department
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## **Federal Employee Program**

All FEP eligible provider types are contracted through the HealthLink PPO Network. Eligible providers may not opt out of FEP.

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## **Montana HealthLink (PPO) Provider Network**

The BCBSMT HealthLink Provider Network follows the same inclusions/exclusions for provider types as the BCBSMT Traditional Participating Provider Network.

All providers must be participating in the BCBSMT Traditional Participating Provider Network to be eligible for participation in the BCBSMT HealthLink Provider Network.

The traditional provider network is wrapped around the HealthLink PPO Provider Network to create a full network for BlueCard purposes and is defined as the BCBSMT PPO product for the purpose of BlueCard.

## **BCBSMT Managed Care Network**

The BCBSMT Managed Care Provider Network can include all contractible provider types, **except for:**

- Certified Diabetic Educator
- Dentists
- Direct Entry Midwife
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Ground Ambulance
- Rural Health Clinics
- Therapeutic Group Home

All providers, with the exception of the following, must be participating in the BCBSMT Traditional Participating Provider Network:

- Audiologist
- Chemical Dependency Center
- Mental Health Center
- Sleep Center/Lab

Credentialing is required for all providers in the Managed Care Provider Network, except for:

- Autism DX and/or TX Agency
  - Essential Community Providers (ECPs)
  - Public Health Department
  - Family Planning
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## **Healthy Montana Kids (HMK) Provider Network**

The HMK Provider Network includes all contractible provider types, **except for:**

- Acupuncturist
- Applied Behavioral Analyst
- Autism DX and/or TX Agency
- Birthing Center
- Clinical Pharmacists
- Direct Entry Midwife
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)
- Ground Ambulance
- Naturopath
- Rural Health Clinic (RHC)
- Skilled Nursing Facility

HMK providers are not required to participate in the BCBSMT Traditional Participating Provider Network.

Credentialing is required for all physicians who participate in the HMK Provider Network. Provider Enrollment & Screening in compliance with 42 CFR 455 Subparts B and E must be completed by all provider types as applicable.

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**MedicareBlue  
PPO Provider  
Network  
(Medicare  
Advantage)**

The BCBSMT MedicareBlue PPO Provider Network includes all contractible provider types, **except for:**

- Acupuncturist
- Applied Behavioral Analyst
- Autism DX and/or TX Agency
- Birthing Center
- Certified Diabetic Educator
- Clinical Pharmacists
- Dentists
- Direct Entry Midwife
- Family Planning
- Hospice
- Licensed Addiction Counselor
- Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor
- Licensed Marriage/Family Therapist
- Naturopaths
- Public Health Departments
- Residential Treatment Center
- Therapeutic Group Home

Credentialing is required for all provider types in the BCBSMT MedicareBlue PPO Provider Network except for Ground Ambulance.

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**Blue Focus  
POS Provider  
Network**

The BCBSMT Blue Focus Point of Service (POS) Provider Network is by invite only and is specific to the following counties: Carbon, Lake, Missoula, Musselshell, Stillwater, Sweetgrass and Yellowstone. Please contact your Provider Network Consultant for more information.

Credentialing is required for all provider types in the BCBSMT Blue Focus POS Provider Network except for Autism DX and/or TX Agency and Essential Community Providers (ECPs).

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**Blue Options  
POS Provider  
Network**

The BCBSMT Blue Options Point of Service (POS) Provider Network is by invite only and is specific to the following counties: Beaverhead, Cascade, Carbon, Deer Lodge, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Ravalli, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweetgrass, and Yellowstone. Please contact your Provider Network Consultant for more information.

Credentialing is required for all provider types in the BCBSMT Blue Options POS Provider Network except for Autism DX and/or TX Agency and Essential Community Providers (ECPs).

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**Formal  
Review or  
Revision Date  
History**

This policy was reviewed or revised, and approved as documented below:

Version and Approval Date		Version and Approval Date		Version and Approval Date	
V-01	05/03/2004	V-02	10/12/2004	V-03	03/28/2005
V-04	03/13/2006	V-05	9/17/2008	V-06	11/1/2008
V-07	04/22/2009	V-7.2	05/27/2009	V-08	09/23/2013
V-09	01/05/2016	V-10	08/14/2019	V-11	11/13/2019
V-12	07/31/2020				

**Governance**

Responsibility for adoption and/or implementation of this policy is as follows:

Executive Approval	Date
<b>Kelli Swanson</b> Director, Network Management	07/31/2020
<b>Mark Meredith</b> Sr. Director, Network Management	