

Introducing BlueCHiP for Medicare Optima

A new type of Medicare Advantage plan



What is BlueCHiP for Medicare Optima?

BlueCHiP for Medicare Optima is a new Medicare Advantage plan for people who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. It is offered by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) and Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (NHPRI).

Why did we create BlueCHiP for Medicare Optima?

This plan consolidates all Medicare and Medicaid coverage needs into a single plan that includes medical benefits as well as the new Part D drug benefit. It features:

- No monthly premium, no medical copayments, and no deductibles
- Dental, hearing, and vision care
- Help with navigating the healthcare system
- Large provider network
- Integrated care model

Who is BlueCHiP for Medicare Optima for?

This plan is for Rhode Islanders who are covered by both Medicare and Medicaid. They are called "dually eligible." Nearly 30,000 people in Rhode Island qualify, including:

- About 18,000 people who are elderly and low-income; and
- Roughly 10,000 who are disabled, younger than 65, and low-income.

When is BlueCHiP for Medicare Optima available?

Medicare began offering a drug benefit on January 1, 2006. As a result, everyone who is dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid was automatically assigned into a Medicare drug plan effective January 1, 2006. People who are dually eligible may change plans at any time during the year, for coverage that begins on the first of each month. BCBSRI and NHPRI began offering BlueCHiP for Medicare Optima, which includes Medicare prescription drug coverage, on January 1, 2006.

How is BlueCHiP for Medicare Optima different from other Medicare Advantage plans?

BlueCHiP for Medicare Optima represents an unprecedented collaboration between BCBSRI and NHPRI. BCBSRI provides benefit administration and the provider network. NHPRI provides customer service and the *Partners for Health* medical management program.

BlueCHiP for Medicare Optima's integrated model of care puts the focus on the individual and encourages communication between outside agencies, healthcare providers, and the health plan. This allows ongoing monitoring and evaluations to ensure your patients are receiving all the care they need.

We appreciate the work you do to help this population, and we look forward to being part of the healthcare solution for these individuals. If you would like to learn more about how BlueCHiP for Medicare Optima can help your patients please contact us directly at 1-800-505-BLUE (2583).

BlueCHiP
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