

September 2024

# BlueBlast<sup>SM</sup>

News Providers Can Use



**Healthy Blue<sup>SM</sup>**

BlueChoice<sup>®</sup> HealthPlan of SC

Healthy Connections 

**All Providers**

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## Join Us for **Annual Provider Training**

We hope you are just as excited as we are to be back in person for this year's **Annual Provider Training**. We have some valuable information to offer on updates, reminders and new features that are coming your way.

We have some great prizes in store and even a **grand** prize. Who will win? You must be present to win. Register today — spots are filling up fast.

Each location will have two sessions: 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The topics will be the same during each session, so choose the session that works best for you. We hope to see you there.

[Register now](#) to reserve your spot.

### Healthy Blue Annual Provider Training In-Person Sessions

- **Oct. 8, 2024** | Richland Two Institute of Innovation (R2i2)  
763 Fashion Drive, Columbia, SC 29229
- **Oct. 15, 2024** | Southern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SIMT), Located on Florence-Darlington Technical College Campus | 1951 Pisgah Road, Florence, SC 29501
- **Oct. 21, 2024** | Trident Technical College  
(Building 920, Salon F), 7000 Rivers Ave., Charleston, SC 29406


## September Awareness

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. There are many life factors or disorders that result in thoughts of suicide. You can assist by informing patients and their families of the resources that are available to them. Let's bring awareness while we fight this battle together!

We offer [resources](#) to aid in mental health discussion. View the resources available at [www.HealthyBlueSC.com](http://www.HealthyBlueSC.com) for more information.

 [fb.me/HealthyBlueSC](https://fb.me/HealthyBlueSC)

 [@CoachBlueSC](https://www.instagram.com/CoachBlueSC)

 [@HealthyBlueSC](https://twitter.com/HealthyBlueSC)

[www.HealthyBlueSC.com](http://www.HealthyBlueSC.com)

# New Prior Authorization Process Coming Your Way

On Nov. 15, 2024, BlueChoice HealthPlan, including Healthy Blue, will be making changes to the prior authorization (PA) process. While you will still sign on through My Insurance Manager<sup>SM</sup>, the portal will route you to a new web-based application, powered by Cohere Health, that will enhance the efficiency of PA decisions.

These latest changes will only affect the authorizations managed by BlueChoice<sup>®</sup>. The PA process for our third-party vendors such as Evolent, Avalon Healthcare Solutions and Novologix will remain the same.

### Benefits of the new process include the following:

- Accelerates and expands real-time approvals
- Enables a more seamless provider experience
- Decreases administrative efforts
- Meets new CMS<sup>1</sup> and NCQA<sup>2</sup> requirements that shorten the time for PA decisions

### The new process will:

- Verify member eligibility.
- Verify the provider's network.

- Check PA requirements, including medical record requirements.
- Verify procedure and diagnosis codes.
- Expand fast-track approvals and real-time responses.
- Align with our clinical policies.
- Allow for digital submission of medical records.

### What you need to do

To get ready, be sure to [register](#) with Cohere Health to access the new web-based application before the implementation date. If you already have an account with Cohere Health, you do not need to create a new one. You can continue logging in as usual.

There are also available [webinars](#) and a beneficial [learning center](#) that will help prepare you for the coming changes. We encourage you to review these resources at your earliest convenience.

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

<sup>2</sup> National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)

*Cohere provides utilization management services. Evolent, Avalon Healthcare Solutions and Novologix are independent companies that manage utilization management services on behalf of BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina and BlueChoice<sup>®</sup> HealthPlan. CMS and NCQA are independent organizations that provide health information you may find helpful.*

## Anesthesia Services Updated Billing

On **Aug. 20, 2024**, SCDHHS updated modifier-specific pricing for anesthesia services. The fee schedule for these services has been updated to reflect the change.

You will find that each modifier has its own pricing.

Procedure Codes	Modifier	Fee
0100 – 01999 (Excludes 01967, 01968, 01996)	AA — Anesthesia services performed personally by an anesthesiologist; the anesthesiologist must remain in constant attendance of the patient	\$18.32
0100 – 01999 (Excludes 01967, 01968, 01996)	QY — Medical direction of one certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) by an anesthesiologist	\$10.99
0100 – 01999 (Excludes 01967, 01968, 01996)	QK — Medical direction of two, three or four concurrent anesthesia procedures involving qualified individuals	\$10.99
0100 – 01999 (Excludes 01967, 01968, 01996)	AD — Medical direction of more than four concurrent anesthesia procedures involving qualified individuals	\$10.99
0100 – 01999 (Excludes 01967, 01968, 01996)	QX — Anesthesia services performed by a CRNA with medical direction by an anesthesiologist	\$9.16
0100 – 01999 (Excludes 01967, 01968, 01996)	QZ — Anesthesia services performed by a CRNA without medical direction by an anesthesiologist	\$16.49

With this change, information within the [Physicians Services Provider Manual](#) located on the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) website has also been updated. For more [information](#) on the expanded benefits and PA criteria, please review the [www.scdhhs.gov](http://www.scdhhs.gov) website.

# Provider Relations Consultant

Meet **Inga Rearden**. She is the provider relations consultant for the counties of Oconee, Pickens, Greenville, Anderson, Abbeville, Laurens, Greenwood and McCormick. Reach out to Inga if you need any assistance. Review the [latest territory map](#) for contact information.



## Healthy Connections NPI Registration

All South Carolina Medicaid providers must register their group and individual National Provider Identifier (NPI) with SCDHHS. Once approved, SCDHHS will assign a unique Medicaid provider ID number to each individual provider, group, facility or other entity. The requirements include but are not limited to the following:

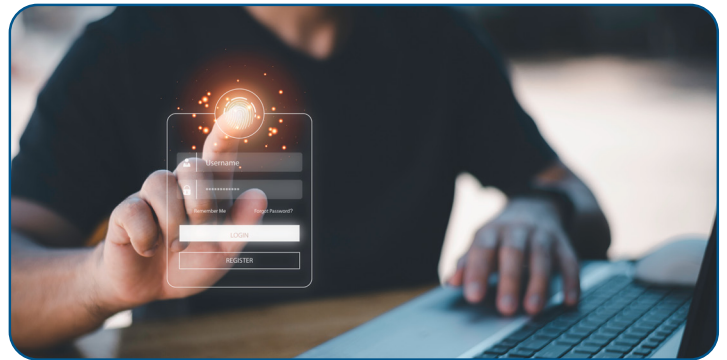
- Application for NPI
- Screening
- License verification
- Completed application

Healthy Blue requires all participating providers and providers seeking to join the Healthy Blue network to have a registered SCDHHS NPI/Legacy ID for each NPI number.

Effective immediately, Healthy Blue will no longer accept

new NPI provider or group request for the network without a Medicaid ID number for the specific NPI noted on the request.

For more information, please visit [www.scdhhs.gov](http://www.scdhhs.gov) for [enrollment and requirements](#).



### DID YOU KNOW?

Medical policies are available on our website. Healthy Blue recommends using the medical policies to determine the guidelines that are applied to make decisions on coverage. These guidelines are based on appropriate and clinical research available at the time the guideline is written.

Our medical policies are reviewed and updated regularly to ensure they remain accurate. Review the available policies online.



Healthy Blue is offered by BlueChoice HealthPlan, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.

\*Some links in this newsletter lead to third-party sites. Those organizations are solely responsible for the content and privacy policies on these sites.

The codes listed are for informational purposes only and are not intended to suggest or guide reimbursement. If applicable, refer to your provider contract or health plan contact for reimbursement information. To report fraud, call our confidential Fraud Hotline at 800-763-0703. You may also call the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Fraud Hotline at 888-364-3224 or email [FraudRes@scdhhs.gov](mailto:FraudRes@scdhhs.gov).