



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

STEVE BRANDAU

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AMY SHUKLIAN

PETE VANDER POEL

Meeting Location:
County of Fresno
Board of Supervisors Chambers
2281 Tulare Street, #301
Fresno, CA 93721

AGENDA DATE: October 15, 2021

ITEM NUMBER: Item 11

SUBJECT: Receive Report on Self-Funded Medical Plan through Anthem to Waive Utilization Management Requirements to Aid COVID-19 Response (I)

REQUEST(S): That the Board receive the report on the self-funded plan through Anthem to waive Utilization Management requirements to aid COVID-19 response.

DESCRIPTION:

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread throughout our communities, Anthem is closely monitoring COVID-19 developments and what it means to customers and healthcare provider partners.

As a result of the issuance of the State Public Health Officer Order provided on August 16, 2021, Anthem is taking additional measures as required in Regulation Section 1300.67.02. Effective August 18, 2021, the Regulation requires the removal of barriers to transfers between facilities under a public health order. This public health order specifies transfers between acute care hospitals only and is in effect until revoked. Regulation Section 1300.67.02 requires health plans to:

- Not impose any prior authorization or other notice requirements that delay or prevent the transfer of members to a receiving facility;
- Cover the costs of moving a member from a transferring facility to a receiving facility;
- Reimburse the receiving facility for all medically necessary services, whether the facility is contracted or not contracted with the health plan;
- Suspend prior authorization requirements for the first 72 hours of treatment at the receiving facility;

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- After the initial 72 hours, continue to reimburse the receiving facility for medically necessary services as approved by the health plan until the plan arranges for the member's transfer or the member is discharged.

A member who has been transferred under a public health order is liable for no more than the cost that the member would have incurred if the member had remained in a contracted facility.

Anthem is complying with these requirements for their fully insured and Medicare Supplement plans effective August 18, 2021. Anthem decided to also include self-insured (ASO) plans effective August 18, 2021 with the option to opt-out.

After careful review with staff, Keenan recommended that the SJVIA comply with Anthem's guidance on the State Public Health Officer Order. SJVIA Management approved the recommendation to opt in. Therefore, Anthem will no longer perform any Utilization Management reviews for transfers between acute care hospitals for COVID-19 diagnosed patients and the members will be liable for no more than the cost that would have been incurred had they remained in a contracted facility. This public health order is in effect until revoked.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

To be determined.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:



Hollis Magill
SJVIA Manager



Lupe Garza
SJVIA Assistant Manager