



BlueCross BlueShield
of Texas

Blue EssentialsSM HMO



What is the BCBS Blue Essentials HMO Plan?

The BCBS Blue Essentials HMO Plan is a health maintenance organization (HMO) plan that provides coverage for healthcare services from a network of providers and hospitals within Texas.

Key Details:

- **Texas-Only Coverage***: The plan only covers services provided by healthcare providers and hospitals within Texas. It's crucial to ensure that your preferred doctors and hospitals are included in the HMO's network. Coverage may be available in the following instances:
 - ***Traveling Away from Home Care:**
 - **BlueCard Access**
 - Employees traveling outside of Texas who need urgent care can receive coverage for care through a BCBS-affiliated HMO provider. Call the Customer Service number on the back of your card.
 - **Away from Home Care**
 - Employees and covered dependents temporarily residing outside of Texas may be eligible to obtain covered services for a BCBS-affiliated HMO. To apply for the AFHC program, members must contact Customer Service at 1-877-299-2377.
- **Primary Care Physician (PCP) Requirement:**
 - **Selection:** Employees must select a Primary Care Physician (PCP) when enrolling. You'll need to enter the PCP's ID Number during the enrollment process.
 - **Assignment:** If you do not choose a PCP, one will be automatically assigned to you.
 - **Changing Your PCP:** To change your PCP, you can either:
 - Call the Customer Service number on the back of your member ID card, or
 - Log into your BCBS Blue Access for Members account to update your PCP selection.
- **Specialist Referral:** You are required to obtain a referral from your Primary Care Physician (PCP) to see a specialist.

Doctors that can be selected as a PCP:

- Family Medicine
- General Practice
- Internal Medicine
- Pediatrician

Verify Your Provider is in the Network and Obtain a PCP ID Number:

1. Go to www.BCBSTX.com
 2. Under Shop Plans & Get Help: select the "Find a Doctor" tile
 3. If you already registered with BCBS under "Personalized Search" click on "Log in to Search"
- OR**

To search as a guest, under "Basic Guest Search" select "Search for Doctors as a Guest"

Confirm your location and plan:

4. Enter your location (city, state or zip)
5. Click on the "Employer Plans" tile
6. Select State "Texas" from the drop down
7. Click on the "HMO" tile
8. Select "Blue Essentials HMO"
9. Browse by Category: Click on the "Primary Care Practitioner" tile
10. Search Providers and make note of their PCP ID Number

Referral Process:

- **Obtaining a Referral:**
 - Your PCP will refer you to a specialist within the network if specialty care is required.
 - Once BCBS of Texas receives the referral from your PCP, it will be automatically approved.
- **Viewing Referrals:**
 - To view your approved referrals, log into your Blue Access for MembersSM account at www.bcbstx.com.
 - If you don't have an account, you will need to register to create a new one.
 - Once logged in, select the "My Coverage" tab, and then click on the link for "Referral and Prior Authorization Information."
- **Scope of Referral:**
 - Your referral may specify particular treatments, a set number of visits, or a time period.
 - It's important to check with your PCP to understand what is covered and when you might need additional referrals.
- **Hospital Admissions and Outpatient Procedures:**
 - Except in emergencies, all hospital admissions and outpatient procedures require a referral from your PCP before you can receive services.

The following services do NOT require referrals:

- Emergency or Urgent Care
- MD Live Virtual Visits
- OB/Gyn