



We want to make sure we keep you up to date about Blue Shield of California's Medicare Supplement plan offerings. Below, you'll find a collection of key changes and helpful reminders for 2021.

#### What you need to know:

**Great news! Effective April 1, 2021, Blue Shield rate changes will occur annually and only once a year**

- Only members in the Closed Medicare Supplement plans list below will see a rate change effective April 1, 2021. Notifications of the rate change will be mailed to these members beginning January 19, 2021.
- Rationale: To align with the market, Blue Shield's Medicare Supplement rate schedules are moving from a 2-year age band to a 1-year age band and members will receive a rate change one time per year. These changes will also reduce confusion and allow for stabilized rate increases year over year. Currently, members may see multiple rate increases resulting in a spike in rates when the member has an annual rate increase and a second rate increase on their birthday month if the member moves to the higher age band.

#### Affected Plans:

- Closed 2010 Standardized Plans: C, D, F, High Deductible F, K.
- Closed 1990 Standardized Plans (5/31/2010): A, B, C, D, F, G, J, K.
- All Pre-Standardized plans and Plans H and I with or without Rx coverage.
- **Dental and Vision Plan Rate Action effective April 1, 2021\***
  - Rate increase for plans listed below
    - Dental PPO Plan 1000 – Increase from \$32.10 to \$35.00
    - Dental PPO Plan 1500 – Increase from \$49.80 to \$51.30

**\*Please Note:** Only members enrolled in closed dental and vision plans will experience a rate change for the above plans effective April 1, 2021. Notifications of the rate change will be mailed to these members beginning January 19, 2021

- **Specialty Duo Plan Closed to New Members/ Enrollments**
  - Effective 04/01/2021 Blue Shield will no longer offer the Specialty Duo Dental + Vision package for new enrollments; as such, the plan will no longer be promoted in acquisition marketing materials.
  - For dental benefit requests for new enrollments with an effective date of 04/01/2021 and later, please select one of our marketed dental plans, the Dental PPO 1000 plan, or the Dental PPO 1500 plan.  
-For new enrollees requesting enrollment into a Medicare Supplement plan along with the Specialty Duo Dental + Vision plan, effective dates will be assigned in accordance with guidelines governing the effective date assignment for the Medicare Supplement medical product. Please refer to the Guaranteed Acceptance Guide for a list of guaranteed acceptance situations and instructions for when to apply based on the applicable situation. Requests to add Specialty Duo Dental + Vision by an existing BSC Medicare Supplement member are assigned the first of the month following receipt of the application for the Specialty Duo Dental + Vision product and will only be accepted through 02/28/2021 and will be assigned an effective date of 03/01/2021.

Please use our 2021 enrollment applications as you are enrolling members as we are retiring our 2020 applications. Beginning March 1, 2021 applications submitted using the 2020 version of the application will be returned, requesting resubmission on the 2021 version of the application.

Reminder: Blue Shield is not currently accepting American Express as a form of credit card payments.

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