

Title 22—MISSOURI CONSOLIDATED HEALTH CARE PLAN
Division 10—Health Care Plan
Chapter 3—Public Entity Membership

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

22 CSR 10-3.075 Review and Appeals Procedure The Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan is amending section (3).

PURPOSE: This amendment updates the telephone number for Anthem expedited appeals and the mailing address and website for external review requests.

(3) Appeal Process for Medical and Pharmacy Determinations.

(B) Internal Appeals.

1. Eligibility, termination for failure to pay, or rescission. Adverse benefit determinations denying or terminating an individual's coverage under the plan based on a determination of the individual's eligibility to participate in the plan or the failure to pay premiums, or any rescission of coverage based on fraud or intentional misrepresentation of a member or authorized representative of a member are appealable exclusively to the Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan (MCHCP) Board of Trustees (board).

A. The internal review process for appeals relating to eligibility, termination for failure to pay, or rescission shall consist of one (1) level of review by the board.

B. Adverse benefit determination appeals to the board must identify the eligibility, termination, or rescission decision being appealed and the reason the claimant believes the MCHCP staff decision should be overturned. The member should include with his/her appeal any information or documentation to support his/her appeal request.

C. The appeal will be reviewed by the board in a meeting closed pursuant to section 610.021, RSMo, and the appeal will be responded to in writing to the claimant within sixty (60) days from the date the board received the written appeal.

D. Determinations made by the board constitute final internal adverse benefit determinations and are not eligible for external review, except as specifically provided in 22 CSR 10-3.075(4)(A)4.

2. Medical and pharmacy services. Members may request internal review of any adverse benefit determination relating to urgent care, pre-service claims, and post-service claims made by the plan's medical and pharmacy vendors.

A. Appeals of adverse benefit determinations shall be submitted in writing to the vendor that issued the original determination giving rise to the appeal at the applicable address set forth in this rule.

B. The internal review process for adverse benefit determinations relating to medical services consists of two (2) levels of internal review provided by the medical vendor that issued the adverse benefit determination.

(I) First level appeals must identify the decision being appealed and the reason the member believes the original claim decision should be overturned. The member should include with his/her appeal any additional information or documentation to support the reason the original claim decision should be overturned.

(II) First level appeals will be reviewed by the vendor by someone who was not involved in the original decision and will consult with a qualified medical professional if a medical judgment is involved. First level medical appeals will be decided within twenty (20) business days from the date the vendor received the first level appeal request.

(a) If, because of reasons beyond the vendor's control, more time is needed to review the appeal, the vendor may extend the time period up to an additional thirty (30) days. The vendor must notify the member prior to the expiration of the first twenty- (20-) day period, explain the reason for

the delay, and request any additional information. If more information is requested, the member has at least forty-five (45) days to provide the information to the vendor. The vendor then must decide the claim no later than thirty (30) days after the additional information is supplied or after the period of time allowed to supply it ends, whichever is first. Written confirmation of the decision will be sent by the vendor within fifteen (15) business days.

(III) An expedited appeal of an adverse benefit determination may be requested when a decision is related to a pre-service claim for urgent care. Expedited appeals will be reviewed by the vendor by someone who was not involved in the original decision and will consult with a qualified medical professional if a medical judgment is involved. Expedited appeals will be responded to within seventy-two (72) hours after receiving a request for an expedited review with written confirmation of the decision to the member within three (3) business days of providing notification of the determination.

(IV) Second level appeals must be submitted in writing within sixty (60) days of the date of the first level appeal decision letter that upholds the original adverse benefit determination. Second level appeals should include any additional information or documentation to support the reason the member believes the first level appeal decision should be overturned. Second level appeals will be reviewed by the vendor by someone who was not involved in the original decision or first level appeal and will include consultation with a qualified medical professional if a medical judgment is involved. Second level medical appeals will be decided within twenty (20) days for post-service claims and within fifteen (15) days for pre-service claims from the date the vendor received the second level appeal request.

(a) If, because of reasons beyond the vendor's control, more time is needed to review the appeal, the vendor may extend the time period up to an additional thirty (30) days. The vendor must notify the member prior to the expiration of the first twenty- (20-) day period, explain the reason for the delay, and request any additional information. If more information is requested, the member has at least forty-five (45) days to provide the information to the vendor. The vendor then must decide the claim no later than thirty (30) days after the additional information is supplied or after the period of time allowed to supply it ends, whichever is first. Written confirmation of the decision will be sent by the vendor within fifteen (15) business days.

(V) For members with medical coverage through Anthem—

(a) First and second level pre-service, first and second level post-service, and concurrent claim appeals must be submitted in writing to—

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Attn: Grievance Department
PO Box 105568
Atlanta, Georgia 30348-5568
or by fax to (888) 859-3046

(b) Expedited appeals may be submitted by calling [(877) 333-7488] **(844) 516-0248** or by submitting a written fax to (800) 368-3238.

C. The internal review process for adverse benefit determinations relating to pharmacy and the Pharmacy Lock-In Program consists of one (1) level of internal review provided by the pharmacy vendor.

(I) Pharmacy appeals. Pharmacy appeals and Pharmacy Lock-In Program appeals must identify the matter being appealed and should include the member's (and dependent's, if applicable) name, the date the member attempted to fill the prescription, the prescribing physician's name, the drug name and quantity, the cost of the prescription, if applicable, and any applicable reason(s) relevant to the appeal including: the reason(s) the member believes the claim should be paid, the reason(s) the member believes s/he should not be included in the Pharmacy Lock-In Program, and any other written documentation to support the member's belief that the original decision should be overturned.

(II) All pharmacy appeals must be submitted in writing to—

Express Scripts
Attn: Clinical Appeals Department
PO Box 66588
St. Louis, MO 63116-6588
or by fax to (877) 852-4070

(III) All Pharmacy Lock-In Program appeals must be submitted in writing to—
Express Scripts
Drug Utilization Review Program
Mail Stop HQ3W03
One Express Way
St. Louis, MO 63121

(IV) Pharmacy appeals will be reviewed by someone who was not involved in the original decision and the reviewer will consult with a qualified medical professional if a medical judgment is involved. Pharmacy appeals will be responded to in writing to the member within sixty (60) days for post-service claims and thirty (30) days for pre-service claims from the date the vendor received the appeal request.

(V) The Pharmacy Benefit Manager will respond to Pharmacy Lock-In Program appeals in writing to the member within thirty (30) days from the date the Pharmacy Benefit Manager received the appeal request.

D. Members may seek external review only after they have exhausted all applicable levels of internal review or received a final internal adverse benefit determination.

(I) A claimant or authorized representative may file a written request for an external review within four (4) months after the date of receipt of a final internal adverse benefit determination.

(II) The claimant can submit an external review request in writing to—

[HHS Federal Request]
MAXIMUS Federal Services
Federal External Review Process (FERP)
3750 Monroe Ave., Suite 705
Pittsford, NY 14534
or by fax to (888) 866-6190
or to request a review online at

[<http://www.externalappeal.com/>] **externalappeal.cms.gov**

(III) The claimant may call the toll-free number (888) 866-6205 with any questions or concerns during the external review process and can submit additional written comments to the external reviewer at the mailing address above.

(IV) The external review decision will be made as expeditiously as possible and within forty-five (45) days after receipt of the request for the external review.

(V) A claimant may make a written or oral request for an expedited external review if the adverse benefit determination involves a medical condition of the claimant for which the timeframe for completion of a standard external review would seriously jeopardize the life or health of the claimant; or would jeopardize the claimant's ability to regain maximum function; or if the final internal adverse benefit determination involves an admission, availability of care, continued stay, or health care item or service for which the claimant received services, but has not been discharged from a facility.

3. For all internal appeals of adverse benefit determinations, the plan or the vendor reviewing the appeal will provide the member, free of charge, with any new or additional evidence or rationale considered, relied upon, or generated by the plan or the vendor in connection with reviewing the claim or the appeal and will give the member an opportunity to respond to such new evidence or rationale before issuing a final internal adverse determination.

AUTHORITY: section 103.059, RSMo 2016. Emergency rule filed Dec. 20, 2004, effective Jan. 1, 2005, expired June 29, 2005. Original rule filed Dec. 20, 2004, effective June 30, 2005. Emergency amendment filed Dec. 22, 2008, effective Jan. 1, 2009, expired June 29, 2009. Amended: Filed Dec. 22, 2008, effective June 30, 2009. Amended: Filed Feb. 17, 2010, effective Aug. 30, 2010. Emergency amendment filed Dec. 22, 2010, effective Jan. 1, 2011, terminated Jan. 20, 2011. Emergency amendment filed Jan. 10, 2011, effective Jan. 20, 2011, expired June 29, 2011. Amended: Filed Jan. 10, 2011, effective June 30, 2011. Emergency amendment filed Nov. 1, 2011, effective Jan. 1, 2012, expired June 28, 2012. Amended: Filed Nov. 1, 2011, effective May 30, 2012. Emergency amendment filed Oct. 30, 2012, effective Jan. 1, 2013, expired June 29, 2013. Amended: Filed Oct. 30, 2012, effective May 30, 2013. Emergency amendment filed Oct. 30, 2013, effective Jan. 1, 2014, expired June 29, 2014. Amended: Filed Oct. 30, 2013, effective June 30, 2014. Emergency amendment filed Oct. 29, 2014, effective Jan. 1, 2015, terminated May 30, 2015. Amended: Filed Oct. 29, 2014, effective May 30, 2015. Emergency amendment filed Oct. 28, 2015, effective Jan. 1, 2016, expired June 28, 2016. Amended: Filed Oct. 28, 2015, effective May 30, 2016. Emergency amendment filed Oct. 30, 2019, effective Jan. 1, 2020, expired June 28, 2020. Amended: Filed Oct. 30, 2019, effective May 30, 2020. Emergency amendment filed Oct. 27, 2023, effective Jan. 1, 2024, expires June 28, 2024. Amended: filed Oct. 27, 2023.*

PUBLIC COST: This proposed amendment will not cost state agencies or political subdivisions more than five hundred dollars (\$500) in the aggregate.

PRIVATE COST: This proposed amendment will not cost private entities more than five hundred dollars (\$500) in the aggregate.

*NOTICE TO SUBMIT COMMENTS: Anyone may file a statement in support of or in opposition to this proposed amendment with the Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan, Judith Muck, PO Box 104355, Jefferson City, MO 65110. To be considered, comments must be received within thirty (30) days after publication of this notice in the **Missouri Register**. No public hearing is scheduled.*

**Original authority: 103.059, RSMo 1992.*