



July 2022

TRANSPARENCY IN COVERAGE

The Village of Arlington Heights is committed to providing our employees a competitive group health plan. In spite of this commitment, we know that consumer out-of-pocket spending on healthcare in the U.S. has risen and will continue to grow at a rate of 9.9% for the next five years.

That is why we are pleased to inform you that as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois must be transparent regarding the billing rates for covered medical items and services of in-network providers (e.g., doctors and hospitals) and out-of-network historical payments. This information will be published to the Internet website of Blue Cross Blue Shield of IL at www.bcbsil.com. The link will appear in the Policy Documents section under Member Services starting July 1st. It can also be found on the Village of Arlington Heights website at [Transparency In Coverage, a part of the Consolidated Amendment Act of 2021](#), the website is live effective July 1, 2022.

This is just the first phase of this multi-phase implementation. By January 1, 2023, we anticipate that prescription drug information will also be available for you to access.

With access to this information, you are likely to be in a better position than in the past, to use your consumer skills to control your out-of-pocket spending on healthcare. You will be able to evaluate your care options and improve your overall health navigation experience, all while being able to anticipate the cost of care for the first time in your life. For example, you now can shop for the most reasonably priced MRI, lab facility, or other medical items and services, which may vary significantly in cost.

With 24-7 access to this data, we hope you feel empowered to make the best possible decisions for your unique health needs.