



BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois

The HMOs of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois Blue AdvantageSM HMO HMO Illinois

New “Serious Mental Illness” Benefits

As a result of new legislation, after January 1 when your 2007 group benefits become effective, your HMO will provide “serious mental illness” benefits in addition to existing mental health benefits.[†]

These expanded benefits include:

- 60 visits each year for outpatient treatment for “serious mental illness” (as specifically defined by the law)
- 45 inpatient days for “serious mental illness”
- 20 additional outpatient visits each calendar year for speech therapy for treatment of pervasive developmental disorders

Serious mental illness services will be treated the same as any other medical condition and must be coordinated by your primary care physician and medical group/IPA.

Copays for serious mental illness visits are the same amount as any other medical condition. If your benefits include a copay for specialist visits, the serious mental illness copay will match the specialist copay.

For details regarding your current mental health benefits, please see your 2007 HMO Description of Coverage or certificate booklet.

[†] The law specifically defines which conditions constitute a “serious mental illness.”