

# **EXCLUSIVE PROVIDER ORGANIZATION** QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE FOR PROVIDERS

Walker

**Jefferson** 

Shelby

**Blount** 

St. Clair

Our individual Exclusive Provider Organization (EPO) plans have unique coverage requirements and a narrower provider network than our other plans. Refer to this guide and the coverage details listed in Eligibility and Benefits when caring for patients with an EPO plan.

## **EPO Plan Overview**

#### **Member Locations**

Individual EPO plans are available to residents within the Birmingham Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) that includes these counties:

#### **Limited Provider Network**

EPO plans use the Blue High Performance Network® (BlueHPN®), which is a limited provider network primarily restricted to the Birmingham MSA. Details about this network are available on our BlueHPN FAQ webpage.





The EPO plan name and BlueHPN appear on members' Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama card.

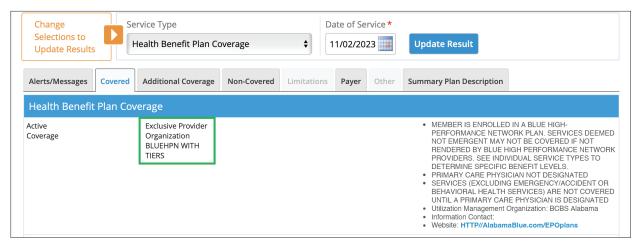




Front of card

Back of card

You can also identify members of this network by checking eligibility and benefits.



# **Important Requirements for Individual EPO Plans**

### **Coverage Restrictions**

EPO plans **only have coverage for physicians and hospitals that have the BlueHPN designation**, excluding accidental injury/medical emergencies. Some hospitals in the Birmingham MSA are not designated as BlueHPN and are not covered under this plan.

## **Primary Care Designation**

EPO plans require members to designate a primary care provider from the BlueHPN within the seven-county Birmingham MSA prior to receiving medical coverage.

#### **Referrals Required**

**Electronic referrals are required from the designated PCP** before services performed by other providers will be covered. Review our How to Submit, Review and Cancel Referrals guide for more information.



**IMPORTANT:** Providers should confirm their own BlueHPN status before accepting EPO plan patients and verify that any necessary referrals have been obtained prior to rendering services.

# Identifying Providers and Hospitals in the BlueHPN

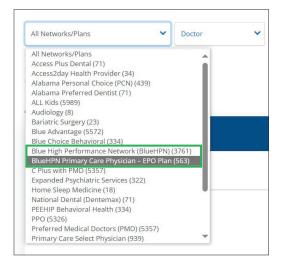
Review the list of BlueHPN providers and facilities on our BlueHPN Providers webpage. To check the BlueHPN status of a specific provider, use our Find a Doctor tool by selecting one of the following from the "All Networks/Plans" drop-down menu:

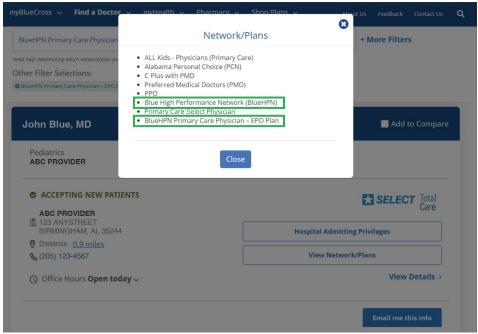
- Blue High Performance Network (BlueHPN): All providers and facilities in the BlueHPN.
- BlueHPN Primary Care Physician EPO Plan: Providers who can be chosen as a primary care physician for the EPO plans that require members to designate a primary physician.

**Note:** This online directory lists providers at their practice location(s). Providers may be listed multiple times in the directory for each of their separate locations; however, their BlueHPN designation will display only for their locations within the seven-county MSA. Confirm the BlueHPN status by reviewing a provider's specific location.



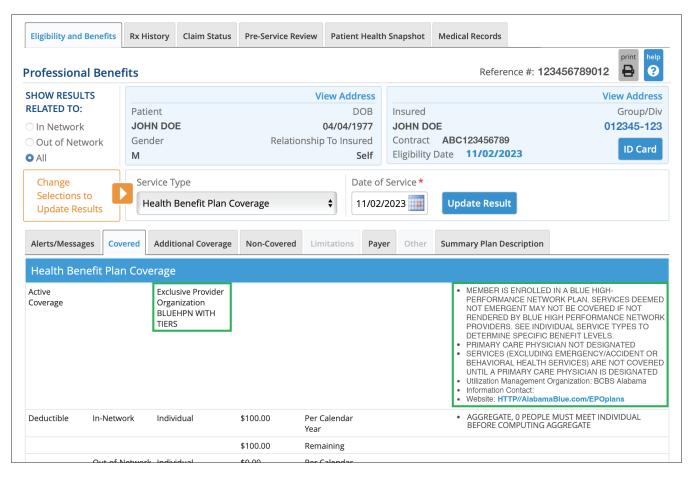


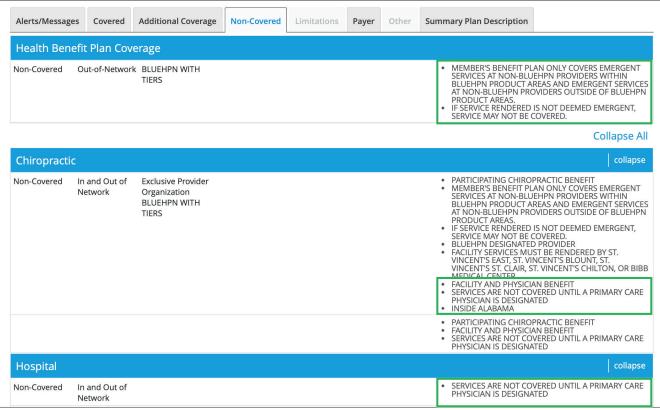




# What You Will See in Eligibility and Benefits

**No Primary Care Physician Designated:** You will see active benefits for emergency, accident and OB-GYN services only. Other services are not covered until the PCP is designated. **Note:** Effective January 1, 2024, urgent care and behavioral health services (mental health and substance abuse) no longer require designations or referrals for coverage.





**Primary Care Physician Designated:** The message emphasizes the requirements for BlueHPN-designated providers and referrals.

