

April 28, 2010Phone: 248.355.9600
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***BCBSM A STEP AHEAD OF HEALTH CARE REFORM
CONTINUES COVERAGE FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN UP TO AGE 26***

THE LAW

For plan years beginning on or after September 23, 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) requires insurers to provide coverage for dependents through the age of 26, regardless of marital or student status.

BCBSM and BCN IMPLEMENT EARLY

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) and Blue Care Network (BCN) obtained permission ahead of the September 2010 deadline from the Department of Health and Human Services to continue dependent coverage up to age 26, effective immediately. (*Self-funded groups are not required to offer extended coverage early but have do have the option.*)

KEY POINTS

- *Does not apply to groups that do not offer dependent coverage.*
- *To extend coverage early, groups should use their existing membership change process.*
- *The Department of Health and Human Services has not provided guidelines as to what the criteria is for a child to qualify as a dependent.*
- *BCBSM will allow members to re-enroll dependents under 26 when the law becomes effective for the group*, however the coverage will not be retroactive to the date the original coverage terminated.*
- *Self-funded groups that elect to comply early must submit membership changes, and if they do not, their existing agreements will be administered per the terms of their existing agreements until the first renewal following September 23, 2010.*
- *BCBSM is revising all riders and certificates according to compliance requirements and expects to be completed by the September 23rd deadline.*

**First renewal following September 23, 2010.*

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions regarding this release, please contact Russ Kotila at **248.355.9600** or email russ@jsclarkagency.com.