

# Brief Notes

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## Horizon BCBSNJ and LHS Health Network create new Patient-Centered ACO

Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey announces the launch of a collaborative Patient-Centered Accountable Care Organization (ACO) with LHS Health Network to improve care coordination for more than 17,000 Horizon BCBSNJ members. Around 90 primary care doctors practicing at approximately 40 practice locations in Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Mercer counties are participating in this Patient-Centered ACO that began on January 1, 2014.

“Our new collaboration with LHS Health Network is another vital step toward transforming how patient care is delivered in New Jersey with an eye toward stronger care coordination, a better patient experience and lower cost of care for Horizon BCBSNJ members,” said Jim Albano, Vice President of Network Management and Horizon Healthcare Innovations at Horizon BCBSNJ.

“We are extremely pleased to be developing this innovative model of service with Horizon BCBSNJ, who shares our vision for providing high-quality, high-value care to the Southern New Jersey community,” said Alexander J. Hatala, President and CEO of Lourdes Health System and the LHS Health Network.

ACOs are built on a strong primary care foundation. Participating physician groups help create a healthier patient population through a coordinated, accountable approach to care among providers within the ACO. ACOs are designed to achieve measured patient quality outcomes and decrease unnecessary and duplicative medical tests and treatments.

Under this Patient-Centered ACO agreement, Horizon BCBSNJ will provide care coordination payments to the ACO to take on additional accountability for improving the health and patient experience as well as controlling the cost of care for its Horizon BCBSNJ patients. Provided the ACO meets certain health improvements, patient satisfaction and cost goals, the ACO and its affiliated practices have an opportunity to share in the resulting financial savings with Horizon BCBSNJ.

Horizon BCBSNJ has a number of Patient-Centered Programs, including ACOs, Patient-Centered Medical Homes and programs focused on different Episodes of Care (e.g., joint replacement, pregnancy). More than 500,000 Horizon BCBSNJ members are now benefiting from Horizon BCBSNJ’s Patient-Centered Programs that are working to improve patient care while controlling costs.

If you have questions, please contact your Horizon BCBSNJ sales executive or account manager.



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