## eBulletin



## **Bon Secours Charity Health System's Network Participation**

We recently notified you about a potential change in network status for Bon Secours Charity Health System (Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, located in Suffern, New York; St. Anthony Community Hospital, located in Warwick, New York; and Bon Secours Community Hospital, located in Port Jervis, New York). We are writing to you today to provide you with an update.

As stated in the previous notification, Bon Secours Charity Health System's participation in our network was scheduled to end Feb. 1, 2014 according to the terms of the contract between us and the system. While both parties continue to negotiate, we have not yet reached a new agreement.

We are, however, extending Bon Secours Charity Health System's participation in our network to March 31, 2014 and your clients, their covered employees and other covered members may continue to use the hospital on an in-network basis through this date. As previously communicated, if our current agreement with Bon Secours Charity Health System terminates, it will affect both UnitedHealthcare and Oxford commercial products.

We are mailing letters to affected members of self-funded plans who received our previous letter to notify them of the extended agreement and the new potential termination date. To view samples of these communications, please click the links below.

- Sample UnitedHealthcare Member Letter
- Sample Oxford Member Letter

In the event of a contract termination, the State of New York requires carriers and hospitals to observe a two month "cooling-off period," which is simply a period of time after the termination of a contract when fully insured commercial members can still access the terminated hospitals on an in-network basis in the hopes that the hospital and the carrier can reach a new agreement.

Since this <u>cooling-off period does not apply to commercial self-funded groups and their plan participants (members)</u>, in the event of a termination, Bon Secours Charity Health System facilities would become nonparticipating for those members on April 1, 2014. For fully insured commercial members, Bon Secours Charity Health System facilities, and physicians without admitting privileges somewhere other than Bon Secours Charity Health System facilities, would become nonparticipating on June 1, 2014.

When speaking with your clients, please keep in mind the following points:

- We will have Transitional Care guidelines in place so covered members who are eligible for Transitional Care and who have scheduled or ongoing medical treatments at a Bon Secours Charity Health System facility will continue to get care as appropriate.
- In the event we are unable to reach a new agreement, after March 31, 2014, to receive non-emergent in-network services, a primary care physician or specialist should not refer members of self-funded plans to a Bon Secours Charity Health System facility for any non-emergent treatment or test. Instead, covered members should be referred to one of the major neighboring hospitals in our

network, as listed below.

Neighboring Hospitals	
Hospital	Location
Englewood Hospital and Medical Center	Englewood, New Jersey
Hackensack University Medical Center	Hackensack, New Jersey
Holy Name Medical Center	Teaneck, New Jersey
Nyack Hospital	Nyack, New York
Orange Regional Medical Center	Middletown, New York
St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital	Newburgh, New York
The Valley Hospital	Ridgewood, New Jersey

In the event we are unable to reach a new agreement, fully insured commercial members
would continue to have access to Bon Secours Charity Health System facilities on an innetwork basis through the New York State cooling-off period, which would end May 31,
2014 at 11:59 PM. Transitional Care may be available after the cooling-off period in
accordance with the covered member's Certificate of Coverage.

We remain committed to working toward a successful resolution with Bon Secours Charity Health System, and will keep you informed about the status of the negotiations. If you would like more information or have questions, please contact your sales representative.