CarePoint Health – Christ Hospital has terminated its hospital contract with Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey

CarePoint Health – Christ Hospital (Christ Hospital) has terminated its hospital contract with Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey effective, 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time (ET), January 30, 2015. This means that Christ Hospital will no longer be a participating hospital in the Horizon Hospital Network, effective January 31, 2015.

Horizon BCBSNJ continually works to maintain a balance between keeping health care affordable for our more than 3.7 million members and reimbursing our network health care professionals and hospitals reasonably and fairly. We take this obligation seriously. Unfortunately, we could not agree to the demands for rate increases made by Christ Hospital.

Under state law, the terms of Horizon BCBSNJ’s hospital contract with Christ Hospital are extended for four months beginning January 31, 2015 through May 31, 2015 as a period for transition of care. Horizon HMO members without out-of-network coverage may continue to use Christ Hospital as a participating hospital through May 31, 2015. Prior authorization must be obtained when required.

Under the terms of Horizon BCBSNJ’s contracts, other Horizon BCBSNJ members (non-HMO and PPO) may continue to use Christ Hospital as a participating hospital through May 31, 2015 as a period for transition of care. Prior authorization must be obtained when required.

Beginning June 1, 2015, Christ Hospital will be out-of-network for all Horizon BCBSNJ members.

As always, we are focused on ensuring that our members have access to needed care. We are working with our large network of hospitals and physicians to minimize the disruption caused by this change to our network.

Below are answers to questions you may have about this network change.

Q1. When is Christ Hospital out of network?


   However, under New Jersey state law and the terms of Horizon BCBSNJ’s contract with Christ Hospital, all Horizon BCBSNJ members may continue to use Christ Hospital from January 31, 2015 through May 31, 2015, as a period for transition of care. Prior authorization must be obtained when required. Beginning June 1, 2015, Christ Hospital will be out of network for all Horizon BCBSNJ members.

Q2. Why did I receive a letter about Christ Hospital leaving the network?

A2. Horizon BCBSNJ is in the process of mailing letters to members in Hudson County and its contiguous counties. Horizon BCBSNJ’s notification to its HMO and Medicare members is in accordance with state and federal requirements. We want to make sure you are aware of the change to our hospital network and that you know that you may pay more when you go to an out-of-network hospital for nonemergency care.

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Q3. Why did my doctor receive a letter asking him or her to leave your network?

A3. Doctors who contract with us are required to be able to admit you to hospitals in our network. This requirement protects our Horizon BCBSNJ members who have no coverage for nonemergency hospital care at an out-of-network hospital. Also, it protects our non-HMO members who generally have higher member out-of-pocket costs for (nonemergency) hospital care at an out-of-network hospital.

Most doctors get admitting privileges at a hospital that participates in our hospital network (except those doctors employed or controlled by the hospital that has terminated from our network) and they can stay in our network.

If a doctor does not have the ability to admit members to hospitals in our network, we ask him/her to leave our network.

Q4. How does this change in the hospital network affect member benefits?

A4. Under New Jersey state law and the terms of the Horizon BCBSNJ hospital contract, Christ Hospital is required to extend the terms of the Horizon BCBSNJ hospital contract for four months beginning January 31, 2015 through May 31, 2015. Therefore, all Horizon BCBSNJ members may continue to use Christ Hospital as an in-network hospital through May 31, 2015, as a period for transition of care. Prior authorization must be obtained when required.

Beginning June 1, 2015, Christ Hospital will be out of network for all Horizon BCBSNJ members.

Q5. What should members do in a medical emergency?

A5. In case of a medical emergency, you should go to the nearest emergency facility, without worrying about network affiliations. If possible, you should call your Primary Care Physician or personal doctor before going to the emergency facility. You are encouraged to contact your doctor(s) as soon as possible after receiving emergency services to coordinate follow-up care.

Q6. How can I find out about other hospitals in the network?

A6. Members have a choice of network hospitals throughout New Jersey, and nearby in New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware. You may search for hospitals in the Horizon Hospital Network by using our online Provider Directory.

Q7. Can Christ Hospital ask me to pay up front any amount in excess of my copayment, deductible and/or coinsurance or other member liability as shown on my Explanation of Benefits (EOBs) for inpatient admissions or outpatient services received on or before May 31, 2015?

A7. You should not receive a bill (aside from any copayment, deductible and/or coinsurance or other member liability as shown on your Explanation of Benefits) from Christ Hospital for any covered services received on or before May 31, 2015. If you receive a bill or have questions, please call Horizon BCBSNJ Member Services at the phone number listed on your member ID card.