Prime Healthcare Services – St. Michael’s, LLC will be acquiring St. Michael’s Medical Center. Unfortunately, Prime Healthcare Services – St. Michael’s, LLC has advised Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey that it will not assume any of Horizon BCBSNJ’s network participation agreements for St. Michael’s Medical Center. This means that St. Michael’s Medical Center will no longer be a participating hospital in the Horizon Hospital Network after the effective date of the acquisition, which is expected to be on or before May 1, 2016.

Below are answers to questions you may have about these network changes.

**Q1. When is St. Michael’s Medical Center out of network?**

A1. St. Michael’s Medical Center will no longer be a participating hospital in the Horizon Hospital Network after the effective date of Prime Healthcare Services – St. Michael’s, LLC’s acquisition, which is expected to be on or before May 1, 2016.

**Q2. Why did I receive a letter about St. Michael’s Medical Center leaving the network?**

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

**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 a 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 or her to leave our network.

**Q4. How do these changes in the hospital network affect member benefits?**

A4. Horizon BCBSNJ members may receive treatment at the in-network level of benefits at St. Michael’s Medical Center through the date of the acquisition which will be on or before May 1, 2016 as long as prior authorization is obtained when required.

Horizon HMO, Horizon EPO, OMNIA Health Plans®, Horizon Medicare Blue Value (HMO), Horizon Medicare Blue Patient-Centered w/Rx (HMO) and Horizon Medicare Blue Choice (HMO) members and other members who do not have out-of-network benefits receive nonemergency hospital coverage only when they use hospitals in the Horizon Hospital Network.

(Continues)
Horizon POS, Horizon Direct Access, Horizon PPO, Horizon Medicare Blue (PPO), Horizon Medicare Blue Access Group and other Horizon BCBSNJ members with out-of-network benefits incur lower out-of-pocket costs and realize maximum coverage benefits by using our Horizon Hospital Network. Therefore, on or before May 1, 2016, these members will maximize their coverage benefits and minimize their out-of-pocket expenses by using a Horizon BCBSNJ network hospital instead of St. Michael’s Medical Center.

Q5. **What should I 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 Pennsylvania and Delaware. You may search for hospitals in the Horizon Hospital Network by using our [Doctor & Hospital Finder](#).

Q7. **Can St. Michael’s Medical Center 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 Benefit (EOB) statements for inpatient admissions or outpatient services received on or before May 1, 2016 at St. Michael’s Medical Center?**

A7. You should not receive a bill (aside from any copayment, deductible and/or coinsurance or other member liability as shown on your EOB statements) for any covered services received on or before May 1, 2016 at St. Michael’s Medical Center. If you receive a bill or have questions, please call Horizon BCBSNJ Member Services at the phone number listed on your member ID card.

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