

Primary Care Physician Affiliation
with Multiple IPAs

HMO Policy and Procedure

**BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF ILLINOIS
POLICY**

DEPARTMENT: Network Provider Performance	
POLICY NUMBER: Admin 02	POLICY TITLE: Primary Care Physician Affiliation with Multiple IPAs
EXECUTIVE OWNER: Executive Director, Provider Performance	BUSINESS OWNER: Manager, Provider Performance
ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE (IF KNOWN): 11/01/2022	COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: 10/24/2024

I. SCOPE

This Policy applies to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) Health Management Organization (HMO), and for the following lines of business and products:

Line of Business / Product Scope / Plan Scope/Contract Number (if applicable)	In Scope [x]
HMO Commercial	x
HMO IFM	x
PPO Commercial	
PPO Exchange	

II. PURPOSE

- To become consistent and reduce confusion in the marketplace.
- To eliminate administrative errors in membership and related member services.
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III. DEFINITIONS

Added Value is defined as situations including but not limited to:

- PCPs with unique hospital affiliations with separate IPAs,
- PCPs in isolated geographic service areas,
- PCPs with multiple language skills, and
- Network approved exceptions.

These guidelines apply to PCPs in the following areas:

- Family Practice,
- General Practice,
- Internal Medicine,
- Pediatrics, and
- Chiropractic Medicine.

Note: Women's Principle Health Care Physicians (WPHCP) are also considered PCPs, To assure female HMO members the right to access to Women's Principle Health Care Physicians (WPHCP) of their choice, IPAs must have at least two WPHCP PCPs and may onboard additional WPHCP PCPs, as applicable.

IV. POLICY

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) does not allow Primary Care Physicians (PCPs) to participate with more than one Medical Group/Independent Physician Association or Physician Hospital Organizations (hereinafter the "IPAs"). Exceptions to this policy will be made based on added value to the network.

V. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Admin 02A - Primary Care Physician Affiliation with Multiple IPAs

VI.IMPACTED BUSINESS AREAS

Impacted business areas include:

- Applicable BCBSIL Service Centers,
- HMO Network Operations, Quality Improvement,
- BCBSIL Illinois Analytics ,
- Sales and Marketing, and
- HMO Utilization Management

VII. POLICY REVIEWERS

Person Responsible for Review	Title	Date of Review
Jessica Whaley	HMO Provider Network Consultant	10/08/2024

VIII. POLICY REVISION HISTORY

Description of Changes	Revision Date
Added revised Policy Header. Moved Definitions section under Purpose to be consistent with Policy template.	10/08/2024

IX. POLICY APPROVALS

Company, Division, Department and/or Committee	By: Name	Title	Approval date
Provider Performance	Geoff Guiton	Executive Director, Provider Performance	10/18/2024
BCBSIL P&P Committee			10/24/2024

**BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF ILLINOIS
PROCEDURE**

DEPARTMENT: Network Provider Performance	
PROCEDURE NUMBER: Admin 02A	PROCEDURE TITLE: Primary Care Physician Affiliation with Multiple IPAs
EXECUTIVE OWNER: Executive Director, Provider Performance	BUSINESS OWNER: Manager, Provider Performance
ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE (IF KNOWN): 01/01/1997	COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: 10/24/2024

I. SCOPE

This Policy applies to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) Health Management Organization (HMO), and for the following lines of business and products:

Line of Business / Product Scope / Plan Scope/Contract Number (if applicable)	In Scope [x]
HMO Commercial	x
HMO IFM	x
PPO Commercial	
PPO Exchange	

II. POLICIES IMPLEMENTED BY PROCEDURE

This Procedure implements the following Policy(ies):

Policy Name	Policy Number
Primary Care Physician Affiliation with Multiple IPAs	Admin 02

III.

IV. PROCEDURE

1. PCPs added to the panel of a new or existing IPA will be reviewed for their affiliation with existing IPAs in the BCBSIL HMO network. If an IPA is requesting to add a PCP who is already in the HMO network, the IPA must demonstrate how the PCP will add value as defined under Definitions.
2. If the PCP is with another IPA in the network and added value has not been established, the HMO Network returns the physician pre-application form/request back to the IPA. The IPA will receive a response via email including the following:

Our records reflect Dr. _____ is currently participating with the HMOs of Illinois networks as a provider and is ineligible to participate with additional IPAs as a PCP due to not meeting the added value requirement. Dr. _____ should not be assigned members.

3. To challenge the denied physician pre-application due to the PCP not meeting the added value requirement, the IPA can submit a written explanation demonstrating added value to the HMO Provider Network Consultant who will submit it for review.
4. BCBSIL will review the written request and the IPA will be informed of the approval status through written and/or verbal communication.

Changing Affiliations:

In the event a PCP wants to change affiliation to another IPA, the current IPA administrative representative must send to the HMO written confirmation of this cancellation per the HMO Medical Service Agreement guidelines. Once the PCP has been terminated from the current IPA, the HMO will accept the request for the PCP to join another IPA via the normal application process.

V. IMPACTED BUSINESS AREAS

Impacted business areas include:

- Applicable BCBSIL Service Centers,
- Network Operations, Quality Improvement,
- Illinois Analytics,
- Sales and Marketing, and
- Utilization Management

VI. IMPACTED EXTERNAL ENTITIES

The following external entities are required to adhere to this procedure or are materially impacted by it.

- HMO IPAs including credentialing departments

VII. PROCEDURE REVIEWERS

Person Responsible for Review	Title	Date of Review
Jessica Whaley	HMO Provider Network Consultant	10/08/2024

VIII. PROCEDURE REVISION HISTORY

Description of Changes	Revision Date
Transferred P&P to new P&P template	09/29/2021
Updated Procedure template header, added Section II. Procedures Implemented by Procedure. Removed Definitions Section, part of Policy.	10/08/2024

IX. PROCEDURE APPROVALS

Company, Division, Department and/or Committee	By: Name	Title	Approval date
Provider Performance	Geoff Guiton	Executive Director Provider Performance	10/18/2024
BCBSIL P&P Committee			10/24/2024