



Important Information: Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL)

- First and foremost, all of OSF HealthCare is participating in the Blue Cross and Blue Shield PPO network through the end of 2017. Patients are encouraged to continue to use our services through the remainder of the year.
- On October 2, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois announced plans to drop three of our hospitals from its PPO network: OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria; OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center in Rockford; and OSF HealthCare St. Mary Medical Center in Galesburg. The termination issued by BCBSIL is effective January 1, 2018.
- By removing these hospitals from its network, BCBSIL eliminates important referral centers and patient access to advanced, critical services within our system. This action by BCBSIL reduces our ability to care for the sickest and most vulnerable patients. This action also forced us to terminate agreements with most of our other hospitals.
- As of the first of the year, Illinoisans with Blue Cross and Blue Shield PPO health insurance will not be able to access in-network care at hospitals across the state owned by OSF HealthCare with the exception of OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony's Health Center in Alton.
- This contract termination does not affect OSF HealthCare St. Francis Hospital & Medical Group in Escanaba. Providers from OSF HealthCare Medical Group, OSF HealthCare Cardiovascular Institute, OSF HealthCare Illinois Neurological Institute, and other OSF ancillary services are also unaffected at this time.
- BCBSIL wants to broaden its network beyond what has been in place for thirty years. The relationship between volume and rates has always been important for quaternary and tertiary hospitals like those terminated by BCBSIL. OSF HealthCare has repeatedly stated it would accept a larger network but can't afford to provide BCBSIL the same reduced rates that were in place as part of a smaller network.
- We are disappointed and concerned about the decision by BCBSIL. We hope they realize the value of having OSF hospitals in network for their members. OSF is open to future discussions with BCBSIL to avoid a disruption to patients.
- Individuals who wish to switch to new plans do have options. If an employee is in an Open Enrollment period, and their employer offers multiple options, our OSF hospitals are participating in most other national and local managed care plans. The [OSF website](#) has a list of the plans OSF is participating with at this time.
- If an individual's employer is not currently in Open Enrollment, he or she will need to contact the employer's human resource department to determine options. If they are able to change plans, they can also refer to the [OSF website](#).
- Individuals may also want to explore other sources of coverage, such as their spouse's benefits or eligibility for government programs.
- BCBSIL patients who still wish to use OSF hospitals after December 31, 2017 can share their concerns with their employer or call BCBSIL Customer Service at 800-538-8833.