

## Medical Oncology Program

# Supporting oncology practices and your patients

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Managing patients and a practice today is a challenge. Carelon Medical Benefits Management recognizes the key role that medical oncology practices play in the delivery of quality cancer care. In collaboration with your patients' health plan, we are implementing the Medical Oncology Program on behalf of Blue Cross North Carolina (BCNC). The program includes enhanced reimbursement for certain Cancer Treatment Pathways. We are committed to offering you the tools, knowledge, and resources to participate in the Medical Oncology Program and be successful in the new value-based healthcare environment.

### What is the Medical Oncology Program?

The Medical Oncology Program helps improve quality and manage costs for cancer care. The program recognizes value and enhances patient outcomes.

Importantly, the program also supports oncology practices in significant ways:

#### Providing actionable information

When your practice prescribes a cancer treatment regimen and submits it for review, it is compared against a comprehensive database of current, evidence-based Carelon Cancer Treatment Pathways. In cases where the planned regimen is not aligned with an identified Pathway, information on alternatives may be presented.

#### Identifying Cancer Treatment Pathways

Your practice wants to ensure quality patient care. The Medical Oncology Program helps better align quality with reimbursement. By choosing designated Carelon Pathway regimens, your practice can become eligible for enhanced reimbursement. You may decide, however, that another treatment regimen is best for an individual patient. Whether a cancer treatment pathway or an alternate regimen is chosen, the Medical Oncology Program supports benefit coverage for all regimens that meet the clinical review criteria under BCNC medical policies and clinical guidelines.

#### Pathways developed and reviewed by oncologists

Pathways are developed using a rigorous process of evidence-based medicine. Cancer Treatment Pathways are selected from therapies recommended by national guidelines on the basis of:

- Clinical benefit (efficacy)
- Side-effects (toxicity), especially those that lead to hospitalizations or impact quality of life
- Strength of national guideline recommendations
- Cost (final consideration when efficacy, toxicity, and national guidelines are equal)

#### Up-to-date

Standards of oncologic care evolve rapidly and keeping pace with change is vital to the health of your patients. That's why it's important to know that the Carelon Cancer Treatment Pathways identified in our Program are updated through a systematic review of medical evidence, at least quarterly, and more often when new treatments emerge or national guidelines change. Through the rigor of this process, an up-to-date source of Carelon Cancer Treatment Pathways is maintained.

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#### Benefits of participating

Practices participating in the Medical Oncology Program can gain efficiency through:

- Identification of regimens that are eligible for coverage including selected Pathways that are eligible for enhanced reimbursement
  - Synchronization with health plan medical policy and clinical guidelines
  - 24/7 online access to the Carelon **ProviderPortal<sub>SM</sub>**, a proven technology platform to process your requests in real time.
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## Putting your patients first

We recognize that every patient is unique. While efforts have been made to identify Pathways that offer the best treatment option for most patients, the treating oncologist may decide that another treatment regimen is best for an individual patient.

Whether a Carelon Cancer Treatment Pathway or an alternate regimen is chosen, the Medical Oncology Program supports all regimens that meet the clinical review criteria under BCNC medical policies and clinical guidelines.

## How to participate

The Medical Oncology Program is administered by [Carelon](#) on behalf of Blue Cross North Carolina (BCNC). Carelon collaborates with payors to help improve healthcare quality and manage costs for some of today's complex tests and treatments.

The first step in participating is to register as a user of the Medical Oncology Program via The Blue e Provider Portal, <https://providers.bcbsnc.com/providers/login.faces>. Once registered with Blue e, you can access the **ProviderPortal** via the DIM/Medical Oncology Program button. The **ProviderPortal** allows you to initiate a review of cancer treatment regimens for your patients who are covered by participating health plans. We call this the "order request" process.

The **ProviderPortal** allows you to:

- Submit a new order request
- Update an existing one
- Retrieve your order summary

It also offers you access to identified Cancer Treatment Pathway regimens, according to your patients' clinical information and your requested services. We recognize that every patient is unique and have made efforts to identify Cancer Treatment Pathways that offer the best treatment option for most patients. When a provider selects an identified Carelon Cancer Treatment Pathway regimen for a qualifying patient's care, the provider's practice will be eligible for enhanced reimbursement from your patient's BCNC health benefit plan. However, you may decide that another treatment regimen is best for an individual patient. Whether a Cancer Treatment Pathways or an alternate regimen is chosen, the Medical Oncology Program supports benefit coverage for all regimens that meet the clinical review criteria under BCNC medical policies and clinical guidelines.

## How the process works:

Provider orders cancer treatment regimen



Medical Oncology Program processes order requests in real time



When a Pathway regimen is chosen, practice will be eligible for enhanced reimbursement



Practice staff enters regimen and other clinical details in the **ProviderPortal**



Program presents information on available Pathway regimens

## Getting your practice ready

Our dedicated oncology provider website offers you all the tools and information you need to get started. To access, go to [www.medicaloncologyprogram.com](http://www.medicaloncologyprogram.com).



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