

# Medical Oncology Program for Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield-affiliated health plans (including Health Advantage and BlueAdvantage Administrators of Arkansas)

## Program Overview

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### About the Medical Oncology Program

#### What is the Medical Oncology Program?

Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield-affiliated health plans (including Health Advantage and BlueAdvantage Administrators of Arkansas) recognize the key role that oncology practices play in the delivery of quality cancer care. We also recognize the challenges you face both in keeping current with treatment advances and ensuring affordable care for your patients. To support high-quality, high value care, we are pleased to announce new collaboration with Carelon Medical Benefits Management. Beginning August 1, 2021, we require your participation in the Carelon Medical Oncology Program when prescribing chemotherapy or supportive medications for affected members.

#### How does the program benefit my practice?

The program supports oncology practices in significant ways:

- Synchronization with medical policy. All prescribed regimen are reviewed in real time for benefit coverage under plan medical policy.
- Actionable information. When your practice prescribes a cancer treatment regimen for an eligible member and submits it to Carelon for review, the prescribed regimen is compared against a comprehensive library of current, evidence-based Carelon Cancer Treatment Pathways. If the planned regimen is not aligned with a Carelon Pathway, information on evidence-based alternative regimens may be presented for your review. Pathway adherence will be tracked to understand prescribing patterns and regional treatment variation.
- Enhanced reimbursement. By choosing Carelon Cancer Treatment Pathway regimens when clinically appropriate, your practice may become eligible for enhanced reimbursement\*.

#### Carelon Cancer Treatment Pathways

Carelon Cancer Treatment Pathways are developed using a rigorous review of professional consensus guidelines and published clinical data. When evaluating a regimen's clinical merits, Carelon oncologists consider:

- Clinical benefits (efficacy)
- Side effects/toxicity – particularly side effects impacting quality of life or commonly leading to hospitalizations
- Strength of consensus guidelines

Lastly, those regimens that have favorable efficacy and toxicity profiles as compared to all other chemotherapy treatments for the same diagnosis are evaluated on the basis of cost.

Standards of oncologic care evolve rapidly. To keep pace, Carelon Cancer Treatment Pathways are reviewed at least quarterly – more often when warranted by new drug approvals, new clinical data, or changes in consensus guidelines.

All Carelon Pathways and Pathway updates are vetted by a panel of practicing community and academic oncologists from the country's leading cancer care institutions before they are adopted.

## Putting your patients first

We recognize that every patient is unique. While efforts have been made to identify Pathways that offer the best treatment options for most patients, a treating oncologist may decide that another regimen is best for an individual patient. Whether a Carelon Cancer Treatment Pathway or an alternate regimen is chosen, the program supports all regimens that meet the clinical review criteria under medical policies.

## How to participate

The program is administered by Carelon. Carelon collaborates with payers to help improve health care quality and manage costs for some of today's most complex tests and treatments.

The first step in participating is to register as a Carelon **ProviderPortal<sup>SM</sup>** user. The online tool is available at [www.providerportal.com](http://www.providerportal.com). Using **ProviderPortal**, you can initiate the review of a cancer treatment regimen for affected members. We call this the "order request" process.

Using **ProviderPortal**, you can:

- Submit a new order request. Requests that meet the clinical review criteria under medical policies will be approved in real time.
- Access Carelon Cancer Treatment Pathway regimens aligned with your patient's clinical information. Your practice may be eligible for enhanced reimbursement when prescribing select Pathway regimens\*.
- Check on the status of an order request.
- Update an existing request.
- Retrieve an order summary.

Provider prescribes a cancer treatment regimen for a covered patient\*



The order request is processed in real time



The practice is awarded enhanced reimbursement for choosing select Pathways\*



Practice staff uses **ProviderPortal** to submit order request



Available Carelon Cancer Treatment Pathways are displayed when appropriate

## Getting your practice ready

Our dedicated program website offers you all the tools and information you need to get started. Just visit [here](#).

*\*Participating providers in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia or Wisconsin may be eligible for enhanced reimbursement.*

