

Fully Insured Groups

Important: Please be sure to pass this information along to your employees.

Under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), there are new rules regarding coverage for dependent children. They are as follows:

- The healthcare reform act requires continued coverage of dependent children until the child's 26th birthday, regardless of marital or student status, whether the child lives with or is financially dependent upon the parent, or whether the dependent is eligible for coverage through his/her employer.
- Dependents can be married, but the dependent's spouse is not eligible. Also, coverage is not available to children of covered children (grandchildren).
- All fully insured groups that provide coverage for dependents are required to adopt this mandate.

How does this affect BCBSRI coverage?

BCBSRI has made the following business decisions regarding fully insured groups. The following changes apply to both medical and dental insurance effective 10/1/10:

- Dependents can be added on 10/1/10 and after if they have a qualifying event (e.g., change of family status or involuntary loss of other group coverage).
- Dependents who do not have a qualifying event can be added at the next open enrollment (e.g., renewal) on or after 10/1/10.
- For groups that currently cover students to age 26:
 - I. Dependents turning 26 during 2010 will be disenrolled as of 1/1/11.
 - II. Dependents will be disenrolled on the first of the month following their 26th birthday beginning 1/1/11.
- Dependents who are disabled may apply for continued coverage after age 26 in accordance with the subscriber agreement.
- Fully insured dental coverage will comply with the mandate as set forth above.

Important notes:

- BCBSRI will no longer conduct the student recertification process.
- Groups must control and verify their dependents' enrollment and disenrollment.
- The process for adding dependents will not change (e.g., electronic enrollment).
- Services that have a specific age limit (e.g., sealants to age 18) will not be changed to age 26.