



DIOCESE OF WINONA-ROCHESTER

PASTORAL CENTER

NOTE: This communication relates only to the health insurance coverage for active Priests and Lay employees. Senior (retired) Priests will continue to be covered by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Sr. Gold and Blue Rx Medicare Supplement Plan.

September 24, 2021

To: Pastors, Rectors, School Presidents, Principals, Executive Directors, Administrators and Bookkeepers

Greetings to All:

As previously announced, effective January 1, 2022, the Southeast Minnesota Cooperative (“Co-op”) risk pool will be switching from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota (“Blue Cross”) to Medica for third party administration. The Diocese of Winona-Rochester Health Plans for Lay employees will maintain the same deductibles, co-pays, maximum out-of-pocket features as is currently in place. Current active Priests plan design will be changing slightly. A separate communication to active Priests will be issued in the coming days.

Please take some time in the next day or so to view the following link from Medica:

www.welcometomedica.com/mhc2.

This link can also be found at the Diocese of Winona-Rochester website:

<https://www.dowr.org/offices/human-resources/health.html> (under “2022 Calendar Year”)

This website introduces the many programs offered by Medica (please note that employees will not be able to register for such things as “Mymedica” until the enrollment process is completed later this year). It also includes links to all the cooperatives included under the MN Health Care Consortium umbrella, of which the diocese is a member. Virtually all providers that are currently part of the Blue Cross network will also be part of the Medica network. As it relates to the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, the following links covers 90-95% of our geographic area. Please click on one or all of the links below to see the “**Medica Choice Passport**” network, the option selected for our diocesan Health Plan(s):

South Central Service Cooperative >	South Central Minnesota
Southeast Service Cooperative >	Southeastern Minnesota
SWWC Service Cooperative >	Southwestern Minnesota

As we get into late October, specific premium rates for the 2022 Plan year will be announced. As mentioned previously, preliminary indications from the Co-op and Medica are for a reduction in rates in the 8-10% range.

Lastly, it is extremely important that this communication is forwarded on to all benefit eligible employees at your location so that they may become familiar with the “**Medica Choice Passport**” network and programs that will be provided by Medica beginning on January 1, 2022.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and patience as we transition from Blue Cross to Medica. Next steps in this process (rates, enrollment timelines, plan communications, etc.) will be taking place in the next several weeks. As always, feel free to contact me via the contact information below or Julia Sandsness at benefits@dowr.org.

Sincerely,

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