



**BlueCross BlueShield  
of Texas**

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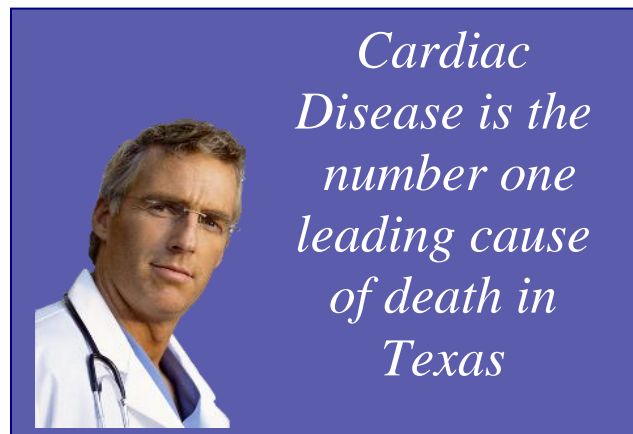
## **BCBSTX – Bridges to Excellence Cardiac Care Program Guide**

*Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) is pleased to offer an innovative program that recognizes Texas physicians who deliver superior care to patients diagnosed with cardiac disease. As a sponsor of the Health Care Incentives Improvement Institute (HCI3, formerly Bridges to Excellence [BTE]) organization and their Cardiac Care Recognition program, BCBSTX demonstrates our commitment to making health and wellness a priority for our members. This program financially rewards network physicians for their performance and their Cardiac Care recognition status.*

### **Cardiac Care in America**

Cardiac disease affects an estimated 81 million Americans with having one or more forms of the disease. Over 831,000 deaths were related to a cardiac disease conditions with Coronary Heart Disease being the leading cause of death among men and women in America today claiming over 425,000 deaths in 2006. Cardiac disease includes:

- High blood Pressure
- Coronary Heart Disease
- Myocardial Infraction
- Angina Pectoris
- Heart Failure
- Strokes are related to cardiac disease and its control





## **Cardiac Disease - Affect on Texas**

- In Texas, nearly 1 out of 4 deaths among men and women are due to heart disease.
- According to the Department of Health and Human Services from 2006, there were more than 38,782 deaths attributed to cardiac conditions that year being the leading cause of death in Texas.
- According to the 2007 Behavioral risk Factor Surveillance System survey results, adults in Texas reported having the following risk factors for heart disease and stroke:
  - 27.8% had high blood pressure
  - 38.5% had high blood cholesterol
  - 10.3% had Diabetes
  - 19.3% were smokers
  - 65.8% were overweight or obese
  - 53.5% reported no exercise in the prior 30 days

*Source: Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease*

## **BCBSTX Cardiac Program Model**

By implementing the BTE Cardiac Care Recognition program, our goal is to improve the health and quality of care provided to the BCBSTX members with cardiac disease by recognizing and financially rewarding physicians who have implemented comprehensive solutions in the management of cardiac disease.

## **Goals of the Cardiac Care Program**

- Improve patient outcomes and their quality of life
- Financially reward physicians who provide superior care to the cardiac population
- Reduce the economic burden of caring for members with cardiac disease
- Link into other established Blue Care Connection medical and dental programs that interact directly with members to improve their health and disease condition

## **BCBSTX BTE Cardiac Care Recognition Program**

The BCBSTX program includes physicians who are currently recognized by the BTE organization in their Cardiac Care Recognition program. The program process is as follows:

- Obtain the BTE recognized provider list from BTE
- Identify BCBSTX members with cardiac disease that see BTE recognized physicians
- Send biometric data collection forms to BTE recognized physicians
- Physicians return biometric information to BCBSTX
- BCBSTX reviews the biometric forms and contacts physicians and provides authorizations for claims submission
- Physicians files a claim with the specific CPT codes
- BCBSTX reimburses the physician for providing excellent care to our members with cardiac disease



*BTE recognized physicians will be eligible for a financial reward of \$100 per patient, per program year.*

Members with cardiac disease will be attributed to physicians every six months.

### **BCBSTX Incentives**

After the BTE Cardiac Care program recognizes a physician, BCBSTX will attribute our members with cardiac disease to a BTE recognized physician. BTE recognized physicians are asked to provide clinical biometric information and are eligible for a financial reward of \$100 per selected patient, per program.

### **Identifying Members with Cardiac Disease**

Members with cardiac disease are identified using the following criteria. They must:

- Be a BCBSTX PPO/POS or HMO member (Blue Card members are excluded)
- Have a Texas address
- Be five years of age or older
- Have at least one claim with a qualifying ICD-9 diagnosis code in at least one of the following ranges for cardiac conditions:
  - ▶ 410 – 411.89
  - ▶ 413 – 414.07
  - ▶ 435 – 435.9
  - ▶ 437 – 438.42
  - ▶ 438.6 – 438.9
  - ▶ 440.20 – 440.29
  - ▶ 444 – 445.89
  - ▶ 447.0 – 447.9
- Have selected CPT codes for cardiac surgeries
- Have selected ICD-9 procedure codes for cardiac surgeries
- Have submitted a qualified claim within the most recent 15 months of claims data

Members who have drug induced cardiac conditions are not eligible for this program. Additionally, COB claims will not be considered and Medicare eligible members are excluded. Federal Employees are also excluded from this program.


## Members with Cardiac Disease – Attribution to a BTE Recognized Physician

Attribution is the process of linking a member to a physician for the BTE Cardiac Care Recognition program. Members are attributed to a BTE recognized physician using the following criteria:

- The physician must be an MD or DO, and non-hospital based
- The member must have at least one face-to-face claim with an E&M code
- If member sees multiple providers, the following hierarchy will apply for attribution:
  - ▶ Cardiologist is the first selected physician;
  - ▶ If the member sees multiple providers, the physician with the greatest number of claim service dates is attributed;
  - ▶ If the member still sees multiple providers, the physician with the most recent service date claim is selected;
  - ▶ If the member still sees multiple providers, the physician with the largest total allowed dollars is selected.
- Members are re-attributed to a physician every 12 months depending on attribution logic

## Becoming a BTE Recognized Physician

There are three avenues in which a physician may choose to become BTE recognized. The following table shows the Performance Assessment Organization (PAO) options, plus the PAO's respective Web sites where additional information can be found.

 Pathway	Quantity of Data Submitted	How data is extracted/submitted	Cost to Apply (Individual)	Cost to Apply (Group)
<b>EMR/Registry System</b>  <a href="http://www.hci3.org">www.hci3.org</a>	Full panel of patients with program condition	EMR or registry vendor will extract patient data from electronic medical record system and submit to MNMCM or IPRO on their behalf	No BTE or PAO fee	No BTE or PAO fee
<b>IPRO Direct Submission Portal</b>  <a href="http://www.pao.ipro.org">www.pao.ipro.org</a>	Full panel of patients with program condition when possible, otherwise sample of 25	Patient data is manually or electronically extracted into a standard file format and uploaded to the web portal for assessment	\$95	\$295 per practice of 3 or more clinicians
<b>National Committee for Quality Assurance</b>  <a href="http://www.ncqa.org">www.ncqa.org</a>	Sample of 25 patients with program condition	Clinicians will extract data from patient charts and submit to NCQA for review	\$80 Program Materials fee \$500 Data Collection Fee (\$400 after BCBSTX 20% discount)	\$400 each with a maximum of \$3,000 for groups of up to 100 For groups over 100, \$10 surcharge for each clinician  (Fees as of June 2010)

## BTE Cardiac Care Recognition Program Measures, Performance Criteria and Scoring

The following table outlines the measures and criteria used to assess physician performance for BTE Cardiac Care recognition.

Clinical Measures	Threshold	Minimum Criteria	Maximum Points
<i>Poor Control Measures</i>			
Blood Pressure Control	≥ 145/95	≤ 45% of pts in sample	20
LDL Control	≥ 130 mg/dl	≤ 40% of pts in sample	20
<i>Superior Control Measures</i>			
Blood Pressure Superior Control	< 140/90	≥ 20% of pts in sample	10
LDL Superior Control	< 100 mg/dl	≥ 25% of pts in sample	10
<i>Process Measures</i>			
Complete Lipid Profile	N/A	N/A	10
Use of Aspirin or Another Antithrombotic	N/A	N/A	20
Smoking Status and Cessation Advice and Treatment	N/A	N/A	10
<b>Total Points</b>			100
<b>Percentage of Total Points Needed to Achieve Recognition</b>			60

### Whom Do I Contact if I have Questions?

For questions related to BCBSTX's BTE Cardiac Care Recognition program, please refer to:



Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas' Bridges to Excellence portal  
[http://www.bcbstx.com/provider/training/bridges\\_excellence.html](http://www.bcbstx.com/provider/training/bridges_excellence.html)



Bridges to Excellence Web site  
[www.hci3.org](http://www.hci3.org)

For all other questions, please contact your local Network Representative  
 Find a listing of BCBSTX's local office locations at:  
[www.bcbstx.com/provider/contact\\_us.htm](http://www.bcbstx.com/provider/contact_us.htm)