

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS CHANGING?

UC will no longer offer the Western Health Advantage (WHA) plan as a UC medical plan option for 2020. You will still have the following medical plan choices for 2020: UC Blue & Gold HMO, Kaiser Permanente HMO, UC Care, UC Health Savings Plan and CORE.

WHY IS UC ENDING ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH WHA?

UC Davis Health will no longer provide primary care services through WHA for UC employees, retirees and their dependents. UC's priority has been to ensure our members have access to a UC medical center for their care if they so choose. With the termination of this arrangement, there is less value for UC to contract with WHA. UC has therefore decided to terminate WHA as a health plan. This change helps to standardize UC benefits across all UC campuses, which UC hopes will help to hold down cost increases in future years.

WHEN DOES THIS TAKE EFFECT?

This takes effect on January 1, 2020.

WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THIS TERMINATION?

All WHA plan members will be affected by this termination in that they will need to either select another health plan option, or be automatically enrolled into the UC Blue & Gold plan.

WILL THIS CHANGE AFFECT MY CURRENT MEDICAL, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND/OR PHARMACY BENEFITS OR COSTS FOR 2019? WILL IT AFFECT MY BENEFITS OR COSTS FOR 2020?

This change will not affect any benefits or costs for 2019. Details for 2020 UC plans — including any changes in benefits and costs — are still being finalized and will be available during Open Enrollment. Please read all Open Enrollment materials for more information,

IF I DO NOTHING DURING OPEN ENROLLMENT, WHAT CHANGES COULD I EXPECT?

If you do not enroll in another medical plan during Open Enrollment, your coverage will be automatically changed to the UC Blue & Gold plan. Your medical and pharmacy benefits will be administered by Health Net, and your behavioral health benefits will be administered by MHN, Health Net's behavioral health subsidiary. You will receive from Health Net new ID card(s) for you and your covered family members.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT MY CURRENT MEDICATIONS THAT ARE NOW COVERED UNDER WHA?

Some prescription co-pays may increase or decrease depending on the medication and medical plan that you will choose for 2020. You should be able to confirm your prescription co-pays during Open Enrollment. Please note that prescription drug formularies vary by medical plan.

WILL I STILL BE ABLE TO SEE MY CURRENT PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN AND SPECIALISTS?

Yes, you will most likely be able to see your current primary care physician and specialists if you choose to stay in the UC Blue & Gold plan in 2020. WHA and UC Blue & Gold HMO have nearly matching provider networks, so there should be uninterrupted access to your current medical care team.

WILL I STILL BE ABLE TO SEE MY CURRENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER?

There is considerable overlap between the UC Blue & Gold/MHN behavioral health provider network and Optum's network. You may be able to confirm your provider during Open Enrollment.

I HEARD THAT NORTHBAY HEALTH WAS NOT PART OF THE UC BLUE & GOLD NETWORK. WHAT IF MY PHYSICIAN IS PART OF NORTHBAY HEALTH?

The University of California Office of the President has asked Health Net to recruit NorthBay Health as a network provider. While we are hopeful they will join the UC Blue & Gold HMO provider network, discussions will take time. During open enrollment, please contact Health Net to confirm whether NorthBay Health has been included. If NorthBay Health is not contracted, employees assigned to a NorthBay primary care provider will need to select a primary care provider within a different medical group, or consider selecting a different medical plan.

WHAT MEDICAL GROUPS ARE AVAILABLE UNDER THE UC BLUE & GOLD HMO PLAN?

UC Davis Medical Group, Hill Physicians, Mercy Medical Group, Meritage, Woodland Clinic, and St. Joseph Health are available under the UC Blue & Gold HMO plan.

WHAT IF MY CURRENT PROVIDERS ARE NOT IN THE UC BLUE & GOLD HMO NETWORK?

If necessary, transition of care may be offered for a limited time during your transition to another provider in UC's Blue & Gold network. More information about this provider network and about transition of care and continuity of care will be available during Open Enrollment.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

We encourage you to read your mail for upcoming news and information about Open Enrollment, which starts October 31, 2019. You will receive materials in the mail the week of Open Enrollment, which will also be available on UCnet beginning October 28, 2019.