

# PROVIDERFACTS



## Blue Advantage® Fraud, Waste and Abuse Training Available Online

It is essential that all Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama providers and downstream entities understand how to identify and report potential healthcare fraud, waste and abuse. It is also essential that providers of healthcare services, equipment and supplies understand the laws and specific requirements related to the Medicare Parts C and D programs administered by Blue Cross such as Blue Advantage and BlueRx<sup>SM</sup>.

Blue Cross is making fraud, waste and abuse training available to our providers via an online training course entitled **Blue Advantage Fraud, Waste and Abuse**. This training program provides a general overview of fraud, waste and abuse regulations, potential fraud indicators, and procedures for reporting fraud and abuse. Blue Cross is providing this training as one method for providers to comply with the fraud, waste and abuse training requirement effective January 1, 2010, for Blue Advantage participation. Notice of this requirement was given in the August 5, 2009, Blue Advantage Amendment.

Healthcare fraud is a crime that has a significant effect on the private and public healthcare system. Fraud and abuse can result in higher taxes, higher insurance premiums and even reduced benefits. It has been estimated that fraud, waste and abuse may account for as much as 10 percent of annual healthcare costs.

This training will help answer the following questions about fraud, waste and abuse:

- What is it?
- What are some examples?
- What laws pertain to it?
- What are the related sanctions and penalties?
- How is suspicious activity reported?

Once you have completed the course, be sure to print a copy of the affidavit and keep for your records. Please do not send your affidavit to Blue Cross.

### Important Information

The following disclaimer is applicable to all telephone inquiries and automated communications systems (i.e., InfoSolutions®, telephone, and fax) to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama:

The information provided is only general benefit information and is not a guarantee of payment. Benefits are always subject to the terms and limitations of the plan and no employee of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama has authority to enlarge or expand the terms of the plan. The availability of benefits is always conditioned upon the patient's coverage and the existence of a contract for plan benefits as of the date of service. A loss of coverage, as well as contract termination, can occur under certain circumstances. There will be no benefits available if such circumstances occur.

**Note:** Please refer to our web site, [www.bcsal.com](http://www.bcsal.com), for the most current benefit and policy information.