

Producer Online News

Update on Sutter Health negotiations

January 31, 2019

Anthem Blue Cross (Anthem) continues to be actively engaged in negotiations with Sutter Health (Sutter) on a new contract. Although the termination date for the Sutter and Anthem agreement for commercial business is December 31, 2018, the agreement allows Sutter providers to remain available to members while negotiations continue past this date.

However, if we are unable to agree on a new contract in the next two months, we will be transitioning HMO consumers assigned to Sutter doctors to other in-network primary care physicians effective April 1, 2019. While we continue to negotiate in good faith, state regulations require us to notify our consumers 60 days in advance of any changes made to their health plan. To comply with our regulatory requirements, we sent letters today to our consumers with HMO commercial health plans who are assigned to a Sutter physician notifying them that they will be assigned to another primary care physician effective April 1, 2019, in the event that a new agreement is not reached by that date. This does not include other commercial health plan (PPO) consumers.

We understand reliable access to quality health care, in addition to affordability, is of utmost importance to all of our consumers, which is why we continue to negotiate with Sutter in an effort to reach a new agreement before April 1.

Our priority during these negotiations continues to be protecting consumers' access to affordable healthcare, and changes to contractual language that will allow us to better offer consumers flexible networks and innovative, more cost-effective benefit designs.

We will continue to keep you updated of developments in the negotiation. If you have questions please contact our Broker Sales Support Team.

This article applies to:

- California - Local and/or ANA
- Small Group, Large Group, and Individual (under 65)