



July 1, 2022

RE: Machine Readable Files (MRFs) Posting Deadline

ACTION REQUIRED:

Transparency in Coverage enforcement for health insurers, group health plans and self-funded customers is almost upon us. As you may have heard, Machine Readable Files (MRFs) are required to be publicly accessible and posted by July 1, 2022. Regional Care, Inc.(RCI) has partnered with Healthcare Bluebook to meet this requirement and they will be updating MRFs monthly. These will be posted at <https://mrf.healthcarebluebook.com/RCI>. This link will also be available on the RCI website under Resources.

Machine-readable files are not designed for human interpretation. MRFs are designed for populating tools like Healthcare Bluebook. To avoid confusion, only share MRF links with stakeholders that are educated on their value and purpose. We advise not sharing MRF links directly with members. Healthcare Bluebook's online shopping tool will incorporate MRFs and pricing data in a digestible format for members and stakeholders to shop for care.

Under the final Transparency in Coverage Rule, a plan or issuer must disclose in-network negotiated rates plus billed and out-of-network allowed amounts through MRFs posted on an internet website. To be compliant, RCI will post the link for MRF files on their website and point employer groups/clients to this location. Employer groups and clients may want to post their individual MRF links on their site. We do encourage employers to note the following if they choose to go this route:

- Please use the following link - <https://mrf.healthcarebluebook.com/RCI>.
- When you post the above MRF link to your publicly available website, remember it cannot be password protected or difficult to locate.
- The URL will contain live data by July 1 in accordance with the requirements. This will continue to update as our network partners continue to provide data.
- Share the link with your organization's team responsible to place it on the publicly accessible site where you will display the link. Again, this link is not intended to be shared with members.
- You may wish to add the following language when you post the link on your site:

“Healthcare Bluebook publishes the Machine-Readable Files on behalf of [employer group name.]”

- Once the link is posted to a publicly available site, the employer responsibility is complete since Healthcare Bluebook will update the MRFs as required.

Important: *If a self-funded group does not have a publicly available website, we would recommend you discuss your options with your legal counsel. RCI does not provide legal advice.*

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