

# HFM BOCES Employee Notification of **NATHAN LITTAUER/ EXCELLUS NEGOTIATION**

You may have heard that Nathan Littauer Provider groups have been notifying patients of their decision to not renew their provider contracts with Excellus, effective December 31, 2022. It is common in the insurance industry for carrier contract negotiations to take place periodically in order to determine reimbursement rates and provider requirements for network services. The HFM BOCES Administration, the Health Insurance Governing Board and our broker, OneDigital, have been in constant contact with Excellus, and is monitoring this negotiation to ensure that your medical plan continues to cover doctors that you may utilize for your healthcare. We want to assure you that we are exploring ways to avoid disruption to your healthcare, as well.

Here is what we know currently:

- The parties are continuing to negotiate
- Nathan Littauer Physician groups have extended the deadline of their Excellus contract services to 1/31/2023
- There is a 60-day period during which you can continue to receive In-Network covered medical services
- Emergency care will still be provided at Nathan Littauer Hospital

While we cannot predict whether the continued negotiations will be successful, below are steps to consider with continued medical care:

- The Excellus plan is a Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) that provides you with both In-Network and Out-of-Network coverage, so continued care with Nathan Littauer providers would still be covered, but potentially with higher cost-share. Please refer to your policy to review Out-of-Network benefits
- Provider searches (including Urgent Care) can be found on Excellus' homepage under the link 'Find a Doctor' <https://www.excellusbcbs.com/>
- Determine where the same service is available within the Excellus network
- Ask your provider to move up your appointments and refill prescriptions to accommodate the potential end of the contract
- Consider switching providers. This can result in lower out-of-pocket cost for your care
- Full use of United Concierge Medicine, HFM BOCES' virtual telemedicine program, is not affected (this can be used to obtain your medications, as well). For more information, please visit the following website: <https://www.hfmboces.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/UCMEmployerReminder.pdf>

Should this negotiation be unsuccessful, below is a brief timeline of what to expect:

- **December 31, 2022** – you will receive a letter from Excellus stating the end of the contract
- **January 31, 2023** – Contract services end
- **Between February 1 and March 31, 2023** – You will continue to have In-Network access to NLH providers for 60 days
- **April 1, 2023** – Out-of-Network services provided through NLH Physicians only

Regardless of the outcome of the contract negotiations, the Health Insurance Governing Board will be reviewing the health plan for alternatives in advance of our July renewal. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through this dynamic issue.

**If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact one of the following HIGB members:**

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