HAYS COMPANIES Update in BCBS Settlement: Claims Portal Active & Key Dates Announced

March 19, 2021, marked the commencement of notice in the Blue Cross Blue Shield litigation settlement. Accordingly, the Claims Administrator has opened their website's <u>claims-filing portal</u>. Class members, including both businesses and individuals, may file a claim on the user-friendly claims portal using the unique ID provided to them in their settlement notice (this notice has, or will, be sent by email or postcard to the class member). Class members who have not yet received notice may still start the claims process on the website using alternative information.

Settlement claims must be filed by class members online or via mail by **November 5, 2021** (online submission deadline and postmarked date for mail-in claims). Claims may be submitted online on the portal mentioned above or by mail to:

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Blue Cross Blue Shield Settlement c/o JND Legal Administration PO Box 91390 Seattle, WA 98111

As mentioned in a previous <u>article</u>, there is a default allocation between the employer and individual members regarding the settlement payout based on contribution percentages. This default allocation may be appealed by submitting relevant data or records showing a higher contribution percentage (explained in claims filing portal). For this claims option, where other documentation is not available and where appropriate, sufficient documentation may include an attestation signed under penalty of perjury. Additional instructions for submitting claims are on the claim form (a pdf version of the form is available <u>here</u>), which is otherwise accessible using the claims portal. Other information to assist in completing the claim forms and about the settlement in general is available on the <u>settlement website</u>.

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Additionally, other key settlement dates have been finalized and are as follows:

Notice Commencement Date: March 19, 2021

Objection Deadline: July 28, 2021 (Postmarked)

Exclusion ("Opt Out") Deadline (Damages Class Only): July 28, 2021 (Postmarked)

Settlement Fairness Hearing: October 20, 2021

Claims Filing Deadline (Damages Class Only): November 5, 2021 (Postmarked or Submitted Online)

Please be advised that any and all information, comments, analysis, and/or recommendations set forth above relative to the possible impact of COVID-19 on potential insurance coverage or other policy implications are intended solely for informational purposes and should not be relied upon as legal or medical advice. As an insurance broker, we have no authority to make coverage decisions as that ability rests solely with the issuing carrier. Therefore, all claims should be submitted to the carrier for evaluation. The positions expressed herein are opinions only and are not to be construed as any form of guarantee or warranty. Finally, given the extremely dynamic and rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation, comments above do not take into account any applicable pending or future legislation introduced with the intent to override, alter or amend current policy language.

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