



benefitNEWS

## National Blues Study Points to Cost Variations in Diabetic Care

A recent [report](#) from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association (BCBSA) found that diabetes treatment costs vary by region, with Southeast and South Central regions having the greatest variation. Diabetes is third among more than 200 conditions measured by the BCBS Health Index in terms of both its health impact nationally on quality of life and per member cost for the commercially insured population.

An analysis of the BCBS Health Index, a database of medical claims for more than 40 million members, showed that diabetes treatment costs range from as low as \$137 to as high as \$750 per member per year (PMPY). In fact, according to the report, “the PMPY cost of the 10% of counties with the lowest diabetes health impact is approximately half the PMPY cost of the 10% of counties with the highest diabetes health impact.”

Cost variations for identical care continues to be an issue in the healthcare industry. Wide variations for the same care and services varies in other costly areas of care including orthopedic care and imaging services to name just two other high frequency areas. This variation is a contributing factor to cost and quality challenges in benefits. A drive for greater transparency and real consumerism is expected to gain more momentum due to issues like those covered herein.

Please contact your Conner Strong & Buckelew account representative toll free at 1-877-861-3220 with any questions.



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