

## OBESITY COMMUNITY RECOMMENDATIONS AND STATE BENCHMARK PLAN SUBMISSIONS (11/08/12)

STATE	OBESITY COMMUNITY RECOMMENDATION	STATE BENCHMARK PLAN SUBMISSION
AZ	Specifically, we are recommending that the State adopt the state employee health benefit as the model for the essential benefit program as it covers at least some of the services to treat obesity (nutrition evaluations and bariatric surgery).	State Employee Benefit-United Healthcare EPO
CA	We are pleased that the Kaiser plan does provide coverage (and limited travel reimbursement) for bariatric surgical procedures involving "modification of the gastrointestinal tract to reduce nutrient intake and absorption," which we should include coverage for the three most common bariatric surgical procedures (gastric bypass, adjustable gastric band and sleeve gastrectomy).	Kaiser small group HMO plan1
CO	Specifically, we are recommending that the State adopt the United Health state employee health benefit as the model for the essential benefit program as it covers at least some of the services to treat obesity (healthy weight coaching/dietitian services and bariatric surgery).	Kaiser Ded/CO HMO1200D Bariatric Surgery NOT COVERED
CT	Specifically, we are recommending that the State adopt the state employee health plan (Anthem) as the model for the essential benefit package with the addition of services required under the Affordable Care Act (see below paragraph) as this plan appears to provide coverage for some obesity treatment services such as bariatric surgery. In contrast, the ConnectiCare HMO plan that is being recommended for adoption appears to exclude all obesity treatment services.	ConnectiCare HMO
DC	Specifically, we are recommending that the District adopt the District employee health plan (Aetna Open Choice PPO)) as the model for the essential benefit package with the addition of services required under the Affordable Care Act (see below paragraph) as this plan appears to provide coverage for some obesity treatment services such as bariatric surgery. In contrast, the BCBS/Carefirst BluePreferred Option 1 plan that is being recommended for adoption appears to exclude all obesity treatment services.	BlueCross BlueShield CareFirst Blue Preferred

IL	Specifically, we are recommending that the State adopt either of the Blue Cross Blue Shield small group plans (Blue Advantage or Blue Edge) as the model for the essential benefit package with the addition of services required under the Affordable Care Act (see below paragraph) as these plans all provide coverage for critical obesity treatment services such as bariatric surgery and nutritional counseling.	BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois BlueAdvantage small group plan
KS	Specifically, we are recommending that the State adopt either of the Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield federal health plans (standard or basic option) as the model for the essential benefit package with the addition of services required under the Affordable Care Act (see below paragraph) as this plan provides coverage for critical obesity treatment services such as nutritional counseling and bariatric surgery.	Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas Comprehensive Plan
KY	Specifically, we are recommending that the State adopt any of the State Employee Humana health plans (Commonwealth Capital Choice, Commonwealth Maximum Choice or Commonwealth Optimum Choice) as the model for the essential benefit package with the addition of services required under the Affordable Care Act (see below paragraph) as these plans all provide coverage for critical obesity treatment services such as bariatric surgery and childhood obesity treatment -- delivered by both physician and non-physician providers.	Anthem Preferred Provider Organization (PPO)
MD	Specifically, we are recommending that the State adopt any one of the CareFirst plans within the Small Group or State Employee categories as the model for the essential benefit package as it covers at least some of the services to treat obesity, such as bariatric and metabolic surgery – one of a number of state mandated benefits as noted in the State Mandates Comparison chart provided by the state, which includes the following language regarding the state mandate on "Coverage for treatment of morbid obesity":	Maryland State Employee Plan
NE	Specifically, we are recommending that the State adopt the Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan (BCBS Standard Option) as the EHB benchmark plan as it covers a variety of obesity treatment services such as bariatric surgery and nutritional counseling. Should the state choose to opt for a State Employee plan, then we would suggest the BCBS Blue Choice Plan as it covers bariatric surgery.	High deductible health savings option

NV	Specifically, we are recommending that the State adopt the Public Employees' Benefits Program as the model for its essential health benefits program as it covers many of the multidisciplinary services to treat obesity (nutritional counseling, behavior modification and psychosocial counseling, pharmacotherapy, medical weight management, and bariatric surgery). In fact, we find the State of Nevada's Public Employees' Benefits Program to be one of the most forward thinking -- both in its recognition of obesity as a chronic disease and its aggressive approach to providing comprehensive treatment avenues for those affected.	Small Employer HMO Plan
NM	Specifically, we are recommending that the State adopt the Presbyterian Health Plan for State Employees as the model for the essential benefit package with the addition of services required under the Affordable Care Act (see below paragraph) as this plan provides coverage for critical obesity treatment services such as nutritional counseling, pharmacotherapy and bariatric surgery.	Lovelace Classic PPO plan
NY	Specifically, we are recommending that the State adopt either the New York State Employee plan (Empire Plan) or any of the small group plans (Oxford) as the model for the essential benefit program as these plans cover at least one obesity treatment service (bariatric surgery). Unfortunately, given the very general nature of the benefit information on the State's Health Exchange website, we are unable to really make a strong recommendation regarding which plans address other critical obesity treatment services.	Oxford EPO
OR	As Oregon seeks to balance coverage and cost in essential benefits, we urge the state to carefully examine the health and cost benefits of designating obesity treatment services as an essential benefit in the Oregon health exchange plan. The recommendation by the Oregon EHB Workgroup that the state select a PacificSource small market plan as the basis for the state's essential health benefits package is extremely troubling given that the plan does not include coverage for these critical treatment services.	PacificSource Preferred CoDeduct small group plan
RI	Specifically, we are recommending that the State adopt the Blue Cross/Blue Shield VantageBlue small group plan as the model for the essential benefit package as this plan covers a number of obesity treatment services such as "bariatric surgery" and "weight loss programs" (according to healthcare.gov) and "nutritional counseling" (according to the June 25, 2012 Rhode Island Health	United Health Care – Choice Plus

	Reform Commission – EHB Work Group generated “Side-by-Side Comparison of RI’s Two Largest Small Group Plans”).	
SC	Specifically, we are recommending that the State adopt either of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield federal health plans (standard or basic option) as the model for the essential benefit package with the addition of services required under the Affordable Care Act (see below paragraph) as these plans provide coverage for critical obesity treatment services such as nutritional counseling and bariatric surgery.	WAITING FOR FURTHER FEDERAL GUIDANCE
TN	Specifically, we are recommending that the State adopt either of the Tennessee State Employee plans (Partnership PPO or Standard PPO) as the model for the essential benefit program as it covers at least some of the services to treat obesity (healthy diet counseling and bariatric surgery).	WAITING FOR FURTHER FEDERAL GUIDANCE
UT	Specifically, we are recommending that the State adopt the Utah State Employee plan (PEHP Plus) as the model for the essential benefit program as it covers at least some of the services to treat obesity (subsidization of nutritional supplements and approved weight loss programs as well as a pilot program for bariatric surgery).	Utah Basic Plus State Employee Plan
VT	Specifically, we are recommending that the State adopt the state employee health plan (Cigna) as the model for the essential benefit package with the addition of services required under the Affordable Care Act (see below paragraph) as this plan provides coverage for “medical and surgical services intended primarily for the treatment or control of obesity which are medically necessary.”	Blue Cross Blue Shield Vermont
WA	Specifically, we are recommending that the State adopt the state employee health plan (Uniform Medical Plan) as the model for the essential benefit package with the addition of services required under the Affordable Care Act (see below paragraph) as this plan appears to provide coverage for some obesity treatment services such as bariatric surgery and nutritional counseling (only 3 visits a lifetime). In contrast, the Regence Inova plan that is being recommended for adoption appears to exclude all obesity treatment services.	Regence Inova Small Employer Plan