



CONSORTIUM CONNECTION

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Insulin Benefit Correction for 2023

The Consortium has discovered that Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield has inadvertently been paying insulin benefits rather than the pharmacy benefit administrator through ProAct, Inc. As of January 1, 2023 claims for insulin will be processed under ProAct, Inc., coverage.

The only coverage for insulin that will continue to be paid under Excellus BCBS will be for insulin given via a pump under the Medicare Supplement Plan only.

Effective January 1, you must present your ProAct information, found on your current Excellus card, when purchasing covered diabetic medications at the pharmacy. The Excellus and ProAct ID number is the same; the pharmacy may need to update their system with the following ProAct information:

ProAct BIN: 017366
ProAct PCN: 9999
Proact Group: GTC

Updating this information as soon as possible can help protect you from any delays in prescription refills.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause to our subscribers and their dependents.

If you have any questions, please call ProAct
1-877-635-9545
or the Consortium's Benefits Specialist
(607) 274-5933



Board Recognition: Rick Snyder and Judy Drake

During the annual Consortium Board of Directors meeting held September 22nd both Judy Drake and Rick Snyder were recognized for their years of service to the Consortium.



Judy Drake in addition to her full-time Human Resource Manager position with the Town of Ithaca, Judy was also supporting the Consortium as its Secretary, as one of its founding members. She was officially appointed to the Chair of the Board of Directors in 2014 and has been a dutiful servant leader for eight years. Judy has been instrumental in creating policy, developing organizational structure, and growing the Consortium from the initial 13 members covering 2,000 municipal employees to an organization of 53 members covering 3,100 municipal employees and retirees. Although Judy will step down as chair, she will continue to serve the Consortium on the Operations Committee. Rordan Hart, Village of Trumansburg, will begin serving as the new Chair of the Board of Directors beginning January 1, 2023.

When Tompkins County hired **Rick Snyder** in 2013 the Consortium was fortunate enough to have already contracted with Tompkins County for Finance and Accounting Services, In addition to his full-time Director of Finance position with Tompkins County, Rick was "volunteered" to be the Consortium's Treasurer. Rick ran accounting services for the Consortium for nine years and has been known to attend many evening meetings and work odd hours in support of the Consortium. Rick is now at a stage in life where he can celebrate retirement both from Tompkins County and the Consortium. With gratitude, we wish him all the best and appreciate all the hard work he has invested into the Consortium.

Thank you Judy and Rick for your years of dedication and service to the Consortium.



2nd COVID Booster Shot Coverage

The Food and Drug Administration, FDA, authorized a second COVID booster dose of both the Pfizer-BioNTech and the Moderna COVID-19 vaccines on March 29, 2022 to allow for the use of a second booster dose for older individuals or certain immunocompromised individuals.

ProAct and Excellus follow FDA guidelines for coverage for the second COVID booster dose. To help ensure coverage the recipient of the second booster would need to be age fifty or older and should be at least four months after their first booster dose. In addition, an individual can also be age twelve or older, at least four months after their first booster dose, and have certain immunocompromised conditions. Conditions include organ transplant or living with an immunocompromise status.

Any member meeting the criteria can obtain a second booster shot at no cost. If you are having the vaccine dispensed in a doctor's office setting just be sure that is the only reason for the visit otherwise you may be charged an office visit fee.

Currently, the Johnson and Johnson and the Novavax vaccine have not been FDA approved as a second COVID booster dose option.

Do we have your number?

Update your contact information any time. This helps us get in touch with you if there is an issue, question, or concern. ProAct, Excellus or the Consortium may need to reach you directly to discuss issues or to give you updates on authorizations for services or medications.

If you would like to update your information or verify that all the information we have on file is current please feel free to call Excellus **1-877-253-4797** or email the Consortium at **consortium@tompkins-co.org**.

Labor Lens

Our Governance: Municipalities and Labor Working Together



The Joint Committee on Plan Structure and Design or Joint Committee met on November 3rd and elected a new chair, Kate DeVoe, for the committee. Kate currently works at the Tompkins County Public Library.

The Joint Committee continues to seek more labor involvement. Currently, the Consortium has open labor seats on a variety of committees as well as the Board of Directors.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming involved with the Consortium please reach out the Consortium's Executive Director, Elin Dowd, edowd@tompkins-co.org.

This is a great opportunity if your union is currently going through negotiations and you want to make an informed decision when it comes to your health insurance. If you ever want to compare plans, discuss benefits, you may also contact the Consortium's Benefits Specialist, Kylie Rodrigues, krdrigues@tompkins-co.org.

2023 Plan Updates

The Consortium Board has reviewed our claims trend activity, our strong financial position, and adopted a premium rate increase of 6.5% for 2023 for all our plans.

The Board has continued with the it's past practice of funding its reserves to keep the necessary financial base for fluctuations in claims activity. The Silver Plan and the Medicare Supplement Plan are the only two experiencing benefit changes for 2023.

The Silver Plan's deductible is increasing from \$2,500 individual/ \$5,000 family to \$2,750 single/ \$5,500 family. The co-insurance for in-network claims is decreasing from thirty percent to twenty percent.

To follow new Medicare guidelines, set by the Inflation Reduction Act, the Consortium's Medicare Supplement plans will now cover all Medicare covered immunizations under the prescription benefit. Under the Medicare Supplement plans only, all insulin products will have a maximum copay of \$35 for a 30-day fill. For any questions about plan benefit changes please reach out to your municipality's benefit clerk.

All other plan benefits will remain the same for all other Consortium plans. The Consortium will remain in compliance with any government regulations and amend our plans to help our members as we find new ways to serve our subscribers.

Paperless Newsletter in 2023!

The Consortium Connection newsletter is going paperless in 2023! **This is our last printed issue of the newsletter.**

To subscribe to our online newsletter in 2023, please visit, <http://www.healthconsortium.net>, click on the Consortium Newsletter tab. The direct link can be found [here](#).

Please call (607) 274-5931 if you have no email/internet access.



New Municipal Members for 2023

The Consortium continues to grow thanks to our reputation for low premium increases, good services, and the approval by New York State for us to add an additional nine counties to our coverage area.

At the September Board of Directors meeting, we welcomed seven new members, including our first fire district:

- DeWitt Fire District, Onondaga County
- Town of Camillus, Onondaga County
- Village of Camillus, Onondaga County
- Town of Hastings, Oswego County
- Village of Skaneateles, Onondaga County
- Town of DeWitt, Onondaga County
- Town of DeRuyter, Madison County

This brings the Consortium's total municipal membership to 60. As we continue to plan for future growth, our Executive Committee is developing a long-term business plan to ensure our financial security and ongoing success.

The Consortium service area includes all the counties shown below:



Wellness

Wellness is the preventative health care that promotes health and prevents disease.

Diabetes Management Program

Your pharmacy benefits include free access to the ProAct Diabetes Management Program. Getting better control of your diabetes is one of the first steps you can take toward living a healthier life.

Through the ProAct Diabetes Management Program you and your covered family members who have diabetes will receive a **FREE** glucometer*, **monthly** diabetes-focused email communications, **access** to online diabetes resource center, pharmacist telephone support and counseling, and access to representatives 24/7 ready to give you one-on-one attention and work with you to answer your questions.

All you need to do is go to <https://secure.proactrx.com/resources/> to enroll. There is no obligation, just an excellent opportunity to ensure your continued good health!

*Must be enrolled in the ProAct Diabetes Management Program and obtaining a meter through ProAct's mail order pharmacy to receive product at no cost.



Walk to End ALZ!

The Consortium participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's on September 10th. Our team, Consortium Connection, raised donations for the Alzheimer's Association, who provides research and support for those living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias and their caregivers.



The Walk to End Alzheimer's is held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide and is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research. The event is hosted by the Alzheimer's Association.



Wellness Challenge Winners!

August- Staying Connected Challenge Winner- Julie Weaver from Tompkins County won a \$50 gift card to Wegmans.

September Flu Clinics- The Consortium had 292 subscribers and their dependents, over the age of 18, visit the onsite flu clinics. The Consortium and their municipal members hosted flu clinics in Cortland, Dryden, Ithaca, and Waterloo.

Upcoming Open Meetings

Meetings are being held in-person. If you are interested in attending a meeting, contact consortium@tompkins-co.org for the location.

Operations Committee

January 23 (1:00 PM)

Executive Committee

February 1 (3:30 PM)

Joint Committee

February 2 (1:30 PM)

SMILE

Join the "SMILE" Challenge for the month of January. Throughout the month of January challenge yourself to practice each of these SMILE behaviors every day:

- **S**tart your day being mindful
- **M**ove for at least 30 minutes
- **I**ndulge in water
- **L**isten for hunger signals
- **E**nd your day with a grateful heart

This is about making progress toward these behaviors, not completing them perfectly.

The Consortium Connection

Publisher and Editor: Kylie Rodrigues

Support: Elin Dowd and Lynne Sheldon

Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium

215 N. Tioga St, P.O. BOX 7, Ithaca, NY 14851

(607) 274-5590 consortium@tompkins-co.org

website: www.healthconsortium.net

Facebook: [GTC Municipal Health Insurance Consortium](https://www.facebook.com/GTCMunicipalHealthInsuranceConsortium)