

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)
Subject: United Healthcare Medicare Advantage and Aspirus Network
Date: Friday, September 1, 2023 1:51:39 PM

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Hello,

I am a State of Wisconsin retiree and currently have coverage under the United Healthcare Medicare Advantage plan. My primary medical providers are through the Aspirus Network.

I received a letter from Aspirus indicating that their agreement with United Healthcare no longer covers the rising cost of health care and they may not be a covered provider in the future. My primary physician and all of my specialist providers are through Aspirus.

I like the nationwide health coverage under the United Healthcare Medicare Advantage plan because we spend our winters out of state. I have received excellent care from the Aspirus providers and they are a high quality health care system that I hope will be available to me in the future.

Any information and assistance that you may be able to provide regarding the status of the negotiations as well as advocacy in resolution would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

John Haugh

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad



STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Employee Trust Funds
A. John Voelker
SECRETARY

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September 11, 2023

John Haugh
[REDACTED]

Dear John Haugh:

Thank you for reaching out to the Group Insurance Board and the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) regarding your concerns about provider contract negotiations between UnitedHealthcare's (UHC's) It's Your Choice (IYC) Medicare Advantage plan and the Aspirus Network (Aspirus).

Through 2023, Aspirus is in-network with UHC's IYC Medicare Advantage plan and nothing is changing in how claims are or will be processed. UHC and Aspirus will be using the remaining months of the year to negotiate a renewal of their relationship.

If negotiations cannot be reached or a new contract signed, Aspirus will be an out-of-network provider in 2024. IYC Medicare Advantage plan is a nationwide passive PPO, so retirees do not pay more for covered services when seeing an out-of-network provider. As long as Aspirus doctors are willing to continue to bill UHC members will see no change in their coverage. Providers do not need to be in a plan's network to bill a plan. There should not be any interruption in service for retirees.

I hope you have found this response helpful. If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out using the contact information provided below. A copy of your letter and ETF's response will be included in the materials for the November meeting of the Board.

Sincerely,

Arlene Larson, Manager of Federal Program and Policy
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