

Access Standards for Medical Professionals

Access to	Standard
Non-urgent appointments for Primary Care (PCP)	Must offer the appointment within 10 business days of the request
Urgent Care appointments not requiring prior authorization	Must offer the appointment within 48 hours of request
Non-urgent appointments with Specialist Physicians	Must offer the appointment within 15 business days of the request
Urgent Care (that requires prior authorization)	Must offer the appointment within 96 hours of request
Non-urgent appointment for ancillary services (for diagnosis or treatment of injury, illness, or other health condition)	Must offer the appointment within 15 business days of the request
In-office waiting room time	Usually members do not wait longer than 15 minutes to see a physician or his/her designee
After Hours Care	Member to reach a recorded message or live voice response providing emergency instructions; and for non-emergent (urgent) matters, information when to expect to receive a call back
<p>Emergency Care: Anthem Blue Cross expects every practitioner to instruct their after-hours answering service staff that if the caller is experiencing an emergency, the caller should be instructed to dial 911 or to go directly to the emergency room. Answering machine instructions must also direct the member to call 911 or go to the emergency room if the caller is experiencing an emergency.</p>	<p>Immediate Access to Emergency Care.</p> <p>Members are directed to dial 911 or go to the nearest emergency room</p>
<p>Member Services by Telephone: Access to Member Services to obtain information about how to access clinical care and how to resolve problems. (This is a Plan responsibility and not a physician responsibility; and this also applies to our Behavioral Health members.)</p>	<p>Reach a live person within 10 minutes during normal business hours (Plan standard: 45 seconds; Call abandonment rate <5%). The Member NurseLine is available 24/7 and the wait time is not to exceed 30 minutes.</p>