

## **Media Statement: Bon Secours**

**July 13, 2023**

Bon Secours and Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield (otherwise known as Elevance Health) have been in negotiations since last October, affecting the Medicare Advantage contract in Virginia, among others.

Unfortunately, negotiations with Anthem remain at an impasse. If Bon Secours is not able to reach an agreement beforehand, our Medicare Advantage contract with Anthem in Virginia will terminate effective August 1 and Bon Secours nurses, doctors and caregivers will be considered out-of-network for nearly 19,000 patients who have Anthem Medicare Advantage health insurance. This could mean that Anthem may force patients with Medicare Advantage insurance to pay more out-of-pocket to continue seeing their trusted Bon Secours providers.

As health care providers serving this community for decades, we find this incredibly disheartening. Our focus is, and has always been, on providing quality, compassionate care for those we serve, and that commitment will not change. What Anthem BCBS pays our doctors, nurses and other caregivers is not equitable or market competitive. Their current reimbursement rates – which are substantially less than those we receive from other payer partners in the market – have not kept up with inflation or labor costs and are overwhelmingly inadequate to account for the cost of providing safe and quality care.

It is important to note that access to Bon Secours Emergency Department facilities will always be available at no higher out-of-pocket cost to patients for covered emergency services, regardless of network status.

Bon Secours patients with Anthem Medicare Advantage coverage are encouraged to make their voices heard.

Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment opens October 15. Patients should talk to their brokers or call the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) at 1-800-633-4227, to understand options about plans that keep their Bon Secours providers in-network. **Bon Secours remains in-network with all other major Medicare Advantage health plans in Virginia.** Patients are also encouraged to call Anthem at the number on the back of their insurance cards and tell them how important it is to keep uninterrupted in-network access to Bon Secours.

Bon Secours remains committed to providing access to care at our locations and we encourage Anthem to do what is right for its Medicare Advantage members, today and in the future.

Bon Secours is committed to providing regular updates on [bonsecours.com/elevancehealth](https://bonsecours.com/elevancehealth) and will be communicating directly with those who may be impacted.