



# KOOTENAI COUNTY

## HUMAN RESOURCES

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### Memo

**To:** Board of County Commissioners

**From:** CK Kirkpatrick, HR

**Date:** September 24, 2025

Beginning in January 2026, the County will be adding Payer Matrix as a component of our health insurance specifically related to pharmaceuticals. Once the Payer Matrix contract and Business Associate Agreement (BAA) have been signed and a new impact report has been run, Payer Matrix in coordination with HR will begin to reach out to the impacted employees to engage with Payer Matrix. The drugs on the Payer Matrix list will be removed from coverage under the Regence medical plan.

At times and for various reasons, a member may need to fill their prescription through Regence/Prime. For those situations, Payer Matrix will notify Regence and Alliant. Regence will request an exception to cover the drug under the medical plan. Alliant will review the exception request for appropriateness prior to Regence sending it to the County. These situations are typically very time sensitive as a member may be waiting on a refill of their prescription. The process is that Regence will send a Group Level Exception for signature via DocuSign. Due to the time sensitivity, it is important to have one or two "approvers" at the County that are available and able to review and sign the exception as quickly as possible.

Following are some (not inclusive of all) reasons that a Group Level Exception may be requested:

- The member does not qualify for the Patience Assistance Program (PAP) and international sourcing or biosimilars are not available
- The member does not qualify for the Patience Assistance Program (PAP), and they need a refill while Payer Matrix is locating other resources such as international sourcing or biosimilars
- Delays in the member providing documentation and/or communication with Payer Matrix
- The member may need a refill or first fill while documentation/approval for PAP is pending

Payer Matrix does everything in their power to reduce or eliminate the need for an exception, but it will likely happen. The sooner Payer Matrix can begin contacting the impacted members and the more work with the members they can do in advance of the effective date of January 1, 2026, will help to reduce exceptions.

We have reviewed the matter with Darrin Murphey and he agrees that it would be practical and appropriate to designate CK Kirkpatrick and Sylvia Proud as approvers of these exceptions.

We are requesting that the Board of County Commissioners give CK Kirkpatrick and Sylvia Proud the authority to review and approve these exceptions as quickly as possible.