

Dear Employer,

Your employee or employee's beneficiary recently received services provided by a caregiver with US Anesthesia Partners of Colorado (USAP) and has a benefit plan administered by UnitedHealthcare. USAP believes that clarity, quality and fairness are basic patient rights, and employers deserve these, as well. In that spirit, we want to make you aware of changes that could affect you and your employees.

For over 16 years, USAP and its predecessors have been in-network with UnitedHealthcare. UnitedHealthcare recently notified USAP Colorado that it intends to prematurely terminate our agreement for our services, despite the fact we have met or exceeded quality benchmarks in patient satisfaction, safety, and post-surgical recovery. It appears that UHC's goal with this sudden move is to force high quality providers out of network. **This negatively impacts their members/patients, their employers, and health care facilities across the entire state.**

We are strongly urging UnitedHealthcare to reconsider this decision; unfortunately, their position has not changed. Despite a strong desire on our part to remain in-network, USAP cannot accept UnitedHealthcare's proposal to reduce our reimbursement by a substantial percentage therefore as of September 1, 2020, USAP will no longer be in-network with UnitedHealthcare in Colorado. We are currently participating as an in-network provider with all other major insurance plans in Colorado. USAP remains committed to engaging with UnitedHealthcare in hopes of re-establishing reasonable rates. **In the short term, this places your employees and their dependents at risk of paying a greater share of their healthcare costs – and at higher prices – than they would if USAP was included as a UnitedHealthcare network provider.** Additionally, your organization may pay more if UnitedHealthcare chooses to charge you for "shared savings" in excess of what you otherwise would have paid for our services.

UHC's actions are particularly unfortunate in the middle of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We believe that the last thing your employees—and the other 30,000 Coloradans with UnitedHealthcare coverage that we care for each year—need to worry about is whether their insurer affords them in-network benefits for their anesthesia care. USAP will work directly with your employees to try and ensure their bills are manageable for their individual circumstances and have financial assistance and other policies in place to help reduce the amount they will need to pay, especially during this uncertain period. As always, we are working as an advocate for our patients (your employees).

If you would like to learn more about the costs your employees or your organization will experience as a result of UnitedHealthcare's decision to exclude USAP from their network, please contact USAP Patient Advocacy Team at PatientAdvocacy@usap.com, or by phone at (833) 479-0697.

Thank you,

US Anesthesia Partners of Colorado