

# Advisory Bulletin



Important Industry Information for our Valued Customers

## Impact of an Ohio Anthem Agreement

Over the past few weeks, we have been communicating with Anthem regarding the impact of signing the Agreement that they recently sent to Ohio EMS providers. Medicount's general counsel has also reviewed the Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield Agreement. We believe it is in your best interest **NOT** to sign the agreement at this time. Our findings are based upon emails with Anthem in which we received the following answers:

1. What will the Tricare fee schedule be for Ambulance Providers if they sign the agreement?

**Anthem - The Tricare rate is 70% of the current Anthem rate. The current Anthem rate is that of CMS.**

2. What happens if the Provider does not sign the agreement? Will it impact their current agreement?

**Anthem - It will not affect their current agreement.**

3. If the Provider does not sign the agreement, how will claims be paid? Will the Provider receive payment? Will the patient receive payment? Will the claim be denied?

**Anthem - If Anthem does win the bid, the payments will go to the members. If they are non-par and they change their minds then they will have to request to join the network.**

4. When will we know if Anthem wins the contract?

**Our understanding is that it will be some time in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of this year.**

To summarize, Anthem may be attempting to use these agreements as leverage to win the Tricare contract. Any department that signs this agreement is participating in a bid that would decrease their payment amounts by approximately 30%. If Anthem ultimately wins the bid, Medicount will then assess the need to participate.