



IBEW LOCAL 234 HEALTH AND WELFARE PLAN



TO: All Anthem Blue Cross PPO Plan Participants

FROM: Board of Trustees

DATE: January 2026

RE: Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula Hospital (CHOMP) –
Contract Negotiations

Anthem Blue Cross recently notified the Fund Office that it has initiated termination of the hospital contract with *Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula* or “CHOMP” with the intent to renegotiate contract terms. If Anthem Blue Cross and CHOMP are unable to reach an agreement, the contract will terminate effective February 1, 2026.

As a result, hospital, doctor or clinic claims incurred on or after February 1st with CHOMP will no longer be considered PPO or in-network claims under the Anthem Blue Cross PPO network. Anthem Blue Cross is working to negotiate mutually agreeable terms in order to avoid termination of CHOMP from the PPO network.

Anthem Blue Cross physicians who admit to CHOMP have been notified of this development and will be asked to arrange for admission of members to PPO network hospitals. Anthem Blue Cross has a statewide hospital network of over 300 acute care facilities. The *Find Care* function at www.anthem.com/ca can be used to locate a participating hospital in a specific area. The following is a partial list of alternate participating general acute care hospitals in the CHOMP service area:

- Dominican Hospital, 1555 Soquel Dr, Santa Cruz, CA 95065-1705
- Natividad Medical Center, 1441 Constitution Blvd, Salinas, CA 93906-3100
- Salinas Valley Memorial Health Care District, 450 E Romie Ln, Salinas, CA 93901-4029
- Sutter Maternity And Surgery Center of Santa Cruz, 2900 Chanticleer Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95065-1816
- Watsonville Community Hospital, 75 Nielson St, Watsonville, CA 95076-2468

If you are pregnant, currently undergoing a course of treatment, or if you have a current authorization for health care services, you may be eligible for transition assistance to ensure continuity of care. If you are in this position, please go to the webpage transition.assist@anthem and transmit the form “Continuity of Care” or COC. Please submit the COC form first and then call the Anthem Blue Cross Transition Assistance team at **(844) 971-0117** to check status. Please note that emergency services do not require pre-authorization regardless of where services are delivered. Members may go to any hospital for emergency services, including CHOMP.

Although these negotiations are ongoing, the Trustees are informing you of this development so you can plan accordingly. Your enrollment in the Anthem Blue Cross PPO plan remains the same and is not otherwise affected by this change. If you receive a bill from CHOMP for services

rendered on or after February 1st, please contact the Anthem Blue Cross Transition Assistance team at **(844) 971-0117** so that this bill can be handled appropriately.

More information can be found at <https://www.anthem.com/ca/update/chomp>. If you have questions about this notice, please call the Fund Office.