

## Blue Cross Complete to host provider virtual forum: A deep dive into vital topics affecting patients

Blue Cross Complete is pleased to announce its upcoming Provider Virtual Forum on October 12, 2023 from 10 am to Noon.

This educational event is designed to bring together health care providers to discuss vital topics, including Medicaid redetermination, vaccine hesitancy, Bright Start, and culturally appropriate sexual health intake practices. Blue Cross Complete is dedicated to empowering health care professionals with the latest information and tools to provide the highest quality of care to Medicaid beneficiaries.

To register, email Nicole Gainey at [providercomm@mibluccrosscomplete.com](mailto:providercomm@mibluccrosscomplete.com) with the following information: name, organization, email address, and number of attendees. A link will be provided one week before the meeting.

If you have any questions, contact your Blue Cross Complete account executive or call Blue Cross Complete Provider Inquiry at 1-888-312-5713.

## Kidney health toolkit available to members

One in three adults in the U.S. are at risk of developing kidney disease.

To address this concern, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has collaborated with the [National Kidney Foundation of Michigan\\*](#) to raise awareness about the prevalence of kidney disease.

The Are You the 33%? is aimed at educating and empowering Michigan residents to take control of their kidney health.

Health care providers are encouraged to invite patients to take the one-minute [Kidney Risk Quiz\\*](#) to help determine if they are at risk for developing kidney disease. The NKFM's kidney health toolkit is also available to support medical professionals in spreading the word.

Visit [nkrm.org](http://nkrm.org) to receive additional resources available to you and your patients. For questions, please contact Jaclyn Ellis at [jellis@nkfm.org](mailto:jellis@nkfm.org) and Mary Wozniak at [mwozniak@nkfm.org](mailto:mwozniak@nkfm.org). If you have any questions, contact your Blue Cross Complete

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## Sickle cell disease can adversely affect your patients' oral health

Medical professionals play a vital role in not only diagnosing and treating illnesses but also in educating patients about various health conditions and prevention. Sickle cell disease is one such condition that demands comprehensive patient education.

While much attention is often focused on the systemic effects of sickle cell disease, it's equally important to emphasize the impact this disease can have on oral health. Those living with sickle cell disease, especially children are often unaware of the unique oral health challenges they may face.

Patients with sickle cell disease are already vulnerable to a range of health issues, including pain crises, anemia, and organ damage. Commonly used medications, including Hydroxyurea can potentially increase the risk of oral sores or ulcers. Oral sores can be painful and lead to other complications, including infections.

By educating patients about the connection between sickle cell disease and oral health, health care providers can empower patients to take proactive measures to decrease and mitigate complications.

As a reminder, Blue Cross Complete covers dental benefits including, but not limited to, exams, cleanings, and extractions for members. Eligible members can locate a dentist by visiting [mibluccrosscomplete.com](http://mibluccrosscomplete.com) and selecting Find a doctor, and then Find a dentist. Members may also call Blue Cross Complete's Dental Customer Service at 1-844-320-8465.

Together, we can continue to work hard at promoting better health among our members and patients.

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\*Our website is [mibluccrosscomplete.com](http://mibluccrosscomplete.com). While website addresses for other organizations are provided for reference, Blue Cross Complete doesn't control these sites and isn't responsible for their content.