Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to choose another doctor?
If you are a patient of a doctor who is part of the Bon Secours Medical Group, your visits will be considered ‘out-of-network’ by UnitedHealthcare until an agreement is reached. There may be special circumstances when a patient is under active treatment but you will need to call UnitedHealthcare to determine if you are eligible for special consideration.

If I need emergency care can I still come to one of the St. Francis hospital ERs?
Yes. In an emergency you should always call 911 or go to your nearest ER. ERs at Bon Secours St. Francis remain in-network for UnitedHealthcare so you will not experience any changes with your insurance coverage.

Can I get treatment at a Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital?
Yes. Our hospitals (St. Francis Downtown and St. Francis Eastside) including our Emergency Rooms, radiation oncology service at St. Francis Cancer Center and our AFC Urgent Care-Bon Secours locations remain in-network for UnitedHealthcare.

Who does this change impact?
This change only impacts people with UnitedHealthcare insurance who use a Bon Secours Medical Group physician.

When is this effective?
The current contract terminates on 2/14/17 unless a new agreement is reached.

Why is this happening?
Over the past several years, Bon Secours has had minimal rate increases from UnitedHealthcare, demonstrating our commitment to keep health care costs low. Bon Secours Medical Group has operated without any rate increase from UnitedHealthcare since early 2013.

We are working with UnitedHealthcare to resolve the issue and we are very sorry that your insurance prevents you from seeing the doctor of your choosing.

What can I do?
We encourage you to call UnitedHealthcare to share your frustrations and disappointment. We know this is not your choice and we oppose any action that interferes with the relationship you have with your doctors. You can reach
I am in the middle of treatment; can I continue with my current doctor?
We would very much like to continue your treatment but you will need to contact UnitedHealthcare to see if you qualify for an exemption. Otherwise, some of your treatment costs may be considered ‘out-of-network’ by UnitedHealthcare.

What does ‘out-of-network’ mean?
It means that you would be responsible for any costs that UnitedHealthcare does not cover for your visit including costs for your office visit or care provided by a Bon Secours Medical Group physician or clinician.

Which practices does this cover?
See list below.

Which physicians are impacted?
See list below.

Which UnitedHealthcare products are impacted?

*We strongly recommend patients call UnitedHealthcare directly to confirm information about health insurance coverage.*

UnitedHealth plans impacted by this contact include:
- All commercial UnitedHealthcare (example: Choice; Choice Plus; Options PPO; Indemnity; etc.)
- All “true” Medicare Advantage (plans that fully replace traditional Medicare) including AARP Medicare Complete HMO members.
- All Medicare Special Needs plans
- Care Improvement Plus Gold Rx
- Care Improvement Plus Silver Rx
- Care Improvement Plus Dual Advantage

Care Improvement Plus Medicare Advantage PPO members are not financially disadvantaged by seeing out-of-network providers, so they can still see our physicians with no extra out-of-pocket costs.

Which UnitedHealthcare are NOT affected?
- Medicare Supplement plans (for people with traditional Medicare coverage and a Medicare supplemental policy)
- AARP Medicare Supplement (for people with traditional Medicare coverage and a Medicare supplemental policy)

### Bon Secours Medical Group Practices

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Bon Secours Medical Group Physicians

- Vidya Ajaradder, MD, North Hills Medical Center
- Brandi Alt, DO, Upstate OB/GYN Group
- David Anderson, MD, Carolina Surgical Associates
- James Anderson, III, MD, Internal Medicine and Diagnostics Group
- Rico Aragon, MD, AFC Urgent Care-Bon Secours
- Leah Aragon, MD, Center for Adult & Family Medicine
- Siddesha Arashinagundi, MD, Carolina Internal Medicine
- Amanda Austin, DO, Gateway Family Medicine of Travelers Rest
- Nasir Awan, MD, Palmetto Pulmonary & Critical Care Associates
- Lidia Baldea, MD, Covenant Internal Medicine
- Collis Barksdale, MD, Powdersville Primary Care
- Rebecca Barksdale, MD, Powdersville Primary Care
- Arnold Batson, MD, Piedmont Orthopaedic Associates
- Thomas Baumgarten, MD, Piedmont Orthopaedic Associates
- Haresh Baxi, MD, North Hills Medical Center
- Celeste Beaudoin, MD, Carolina Women's Health
- Jeff Benjamin, DO, Bon Secours Neurology
- Stephanie Dach, DO, Upstate OB/GYN Group
- Bela Bhatia, MD, North Hills Medical Center
- J. Barry Bishop, MD, Plastic Surgery Associates
- Jon Bittrick, MD, Upstate Cardiology
- Stacy Bizzell, MD, Woodward Medical Center
- Marcus Blackstone, MD, Stoneview Internal Medicine
- Connie Blackstone, MD, Stoneview Internal Medicine
- Ahmad Boota, MD, Palmetto Pulmonary & Critical Care Associates
- Cassandra Bray, MD, Millenium Internal Medicine
- James Bridgeman, MD, Milestone Family Medicine
- Glenn Brothers, DO, Gateway Family Medicine of Travelers Rest
- Jackson Bruce, MD, Piedmont Family Practice
- Jack Brunson, MD, Mountain View Family Medicine
- Michael Bucci, MD, Piedmont Spine & Neurosurgical Group
- Kurt Budelmann, MD, Woodward Medical Center
- Andrew Bullock, MD, Palmetto Greenville Urology
- Larry Byrd, MD, North Hills Medical Center
- Marie Calixte, MD, North Hills Medical Center
- Amy R. Cantillion, MD, Bon Secours Physical Medicine & Rehab
- Hans Carlson, MD, Carolina ENT
- Lindsey Cecil, MD, Premier Family Medicine
- Michael Chappell, MD, Doctors Family Medicine
- Byung Choe, MD, Bon Secours Physical Medicine & Rehab
- Jason Coben, MD, McCraw Family Medicine
- Howland Crosswell, MD, Bon Secours Hematology & Oncology (formerly Upstate Oncology Associates)
- Julie Dangler, MD, Family Practice Associates of Easley
- Joanne Daniel-Saunders, MD, Center for Adult & Family Medicine
- Shirlene Davis, MD, North Hills Medical Center
- Hugh Dennis, MD, St. Francis Cardiovascular & Thoracic Associates
• Kirk DePriest, DO, Carolina Surgical Associates
• Joseph DeRosa, MD, Milestone Family Medicine
• Geera Desai, MD, North Hills Medical Center
• Nayan Desai, MD, North Hills Medical Center
• Erin Dickert, MD, Upstate Maternal Fetal Medicine
• Uchenna Dike, MD, North Hills Medical Center
• Luke Dolan, MD, Stoneview Internal Medicine
• Manuel Dorna-Pesquera, MD, Reedy Family Medicine
• Stephen Dyar, MD, Bon Secours Hematology & Oncology (formerly Upstate Oncology Associates)
• John Eberly, MD, Eastside Medical Group
• Gregory Edens, MD, Family Practice Associates of Easley
• Ezzat El-Bayoumi, MD, Palmetto Pulmonary & Critical Care Associates
• Ezinma Ezealah, MD, Upstate Osteoporosis & Arthritis
• Carolyn Fields, MD, Paris View Family Practice
• Lawrence Freeman, MD, Upstate Cardiology
• Ned Freeman, MD, Upstate Cardiology
• Martin French, MD, Commonwealth Women’s Care
• James Fuson, MD, Reedy Family Medicine
• Nitin Gaikwad, MD, North Hills Medical Center
• Joseph Garand, MD, Piedmont Family Practice
• Linda Giambalvo, MD, Holly Tree Family Practice
• David Godwin, MD, Commonwealth Women’s Care
• Augustus Goforth, III, MD, Carolina ENT
• Eugene Golding, Jr, MD, North Hills Medical Center
• Mark Grabarczyk, MD, Upstate Cardiology
• Travis Greer, MD, Palmetto Pulmonary & Critical Care Associates
• Philip Greig, MD, Upstate Maternal Fetal Medicine
• Jeffrey Griffin, MD, St. Francis Cardiovascular & Thoracic Associates
• Thomas Hamilton, MD, Palmetto Greenville Urology
• Lisa Harding, MD, Foothills Internal Medicine
• Katarina Harris, MD, Palmetto Pulmonary & Critical Care Associates
• Edward Heidtman, IV, MD, Carolina Women’s Health
• Benjamin Hester, MD, Doctors Family Medicine
• Breeden Hollis, Jr., MD, Piedmont Orthopaedic Associates
• Ganeice Holton, MD, Foothills Internal Medicine
• Jason Hood, MD, Upstate OB/GYN Group
• Kyle Horton, MD, Bon Secours Endocrinology
• Miranda Horton, MD, Woodward Medical Center
• James Hudson, MD, Premier Family Medicine
• David Hudson, MD, Mountain View Family Medicine
• Allison Hunt, MD, Family Practice Associates of Easley
• Samy Iskandar, MD, Bon Secours OB-GYN
• Mark Jackson, MD, Vascular Surgery Associates
• Daniel Jacques, MD, Carolina Surgical Associates
• James Jennings, Jr., MD, Piedmont Orthopaedic Associates
• Clark Jernigan, MD, Piedmont Orthopaedic Associates
• Steven Johnson, MD, Upstate Cardiology
• Shannon Johnson, MD, Carolina Women’s Health
• Robert Johnson, Jr, MD, Powdersville Family Practice
• Christopher Kavolus, MD, Piedmont Orthopaedic Associates
• Stephen Keiser, MD, Fairview Family Practice
• Rebecca Keith, MD, Carolina Women's Health
• Paul Kellett, MD, St. Francis Primary Care Downtown
• Sharif Khan, MD, Bon Secours Hematology & Oncology (formerly Upstate Oncology Associates)
• Shay Koch, MD, Piedmont Orthopaedic Associates
• William Koch, MD, Powdersville Family Practice
• Sharon Kofoed, MD, Carolina Women's Health
• Joseph Kubiak, Jr., MD, Palmetto Pulmonary & Critical Care Associates
• Divya Kulkarni, MD, Fairview Family Practice
• Shreeram Kumar, MD, North Hills Medical Center
• John Lacy, MD, Woodward Medical Center
• Todd Lantz, MD, Upstate OB/GYN Group
• Ralph Lattimore, MD, Carolina Women's Health
• Richard Laurens, Jr., MD, Palmetto Pulmonary & Critical Care Associates
• Richard Leland, MD, Milestone Family Medicine
• Patrick Lollis, MD, Family Practice Associates of Easley
• Milena Lombardi, DO, North Hills Medical Center
• Emmett Lucas, MD, Piedmont Orthopaedic Associates
• Sandra Luyindula, MD, Fairview Family Practice
• James MacMillan, DO, Gateway Family Medicine of Travelers Rest
• Lori Malvern, MD, St. Francis Primary Care Downtown
• Thomas Mann, Jr., MD, Carolina Surgical Associates
• Eric Marler, MD, Woodward Medical Center
• Jennifer Martin, MD, Piedmont Orthopaedic Associates
• Shawn Mathias, MD, Upstate Cardiology
• Reed Mathias, MD, Covenant Internal Medicine
• Louis Mathis, Jr., MD, Powdersville Family Practice
• Vanessa Mazzoli, MD, Carolina Women's Health
• Craig McCotter, MD, Upstate Cardiology
• Andrew McCraw, MD, McCraw Family Medicine
• Joy McFarland, MD, Woodward Medical Center
• James McPhail, MD, North Hills Medical Center
• Kerisea McPherson, MD, Piedmont Spine & Neurosurgical Group
• John Melba, MD, Milestone Family Medicine
• James Mensone, MD, James C. Mensone, M.D.
• James Merriam, III, MD, Upstate Cardiology
• William Messer, MD, Reedy Family Medicine
• Joseph Millican, MD, Carolina Surgical Associates
• Christie Mina, MD, Piedmont Spine & Neurosurgical Group
• John Minasi, MD, Carolina Surgical Associates
• Sushil Mittal, MD, North Hills Medical Center
• Robert Monroe, Jr, MD, Palmetto Greenville Urology
• Barbara Moran-Faile, MD, Upstate Cardiology
• Charles Mullen, Jr., MD, Palmetto Pulmonary & Critical Care Associates
• David Murphy, MD, Poinsett Family Practice
• Raana Naidu, MD, Woodward Medical Center
• Matthew Nessmith, MD, Upstate Cardiology
• Steven Newman, MD, Poinsett Family Practice
• Michael O'Boyle, MD, Carolina Orthopaedic Center
• Maduka Odogwu, MD, North Hills Medical Center
UnitedHealthcare Contract Negotiations

Important Update

- Sudhirkumar Patel, MD, Carolina Internal Medicine
- George Pattis, DPM, North Hills Medical Center
- John Paylor, MD, Piedmont Orthopaedic Associates
- Julia Payne, MD, Palmetto Pulmonary & Critical Care Associates
- Michael Peters, MD, Mountain View Family Medicine
- Stephanie Phillips, MD, Wellspring Primary Care
- Lesley Pickell, MD, Carolina Women's Health
- Clovis Pierce, MD, North Hills Medical Center
- Jessica Pollard, MD, Milestone Family Medicine
- Alan Posta, Jr, MD, Carolina Orthopaedic Center
- Leonard Pugh, MD, Millenium Internal Medicine
- Adnan Qadeer, MD, North Hills Medical Center
- Fahd Quddus, MD, Bon Secours Hematology & Oncology (formerly Upstate Oncology Associates)
- Arvin Raheja, MD, Women's Healthcare
- Tiffany Rhodes, MD, Upstate OB/GYN Group
- David Rice, MD, Palmetto Greenville Urology
- Melissa Richardson, MD, Melissa Richardson, MD
- Stephen Ridgeway, MD, Piedmont Orthopaedic Associates
- Charles Ross, MD, Upstate Cardiology
- James Rousseau, MD, Center for Adult & Family Medicine
- Michael Ruppenthal, MD, Bon Secours Physical Medicine & Rehab
- Brian Sadowski, MD, Carolina Surgical Associates
- Lee Saindon, MD, Mountain View Family Medicine
- Gregory San, MD, Upstate Cardiology
- Matthew Sellers, MD, Upstate Cardiology
- Thomas Sellner, DO, Carolina ENT
- Calvin Selwyn, MD, Carolina Surgical Associates
- Kesha Shah, MD, North Hills Medical Center
- Thomas Siachos, MD, Upstate Cardiology
- Robert Siegel, MD, Bon Secours Hematology & Oncology (formerly Upstate Oncology Associates)
- Harvey Sikes, MD, Carolina Women's Health
- Brad Simpson, MD, Upstate Cardiology
- John Sloan, Jr., MD, Piedmont Family Practice
- Jennifer Smart, MD, Powdersville Family Practice
- Ronald Smith, MD, Palmetto Greenville Urology
- Christopher Smith, MD, Upstate Cardiology
- Calvin Snipes, MD, Foothills Internal Medicine
- Cynthia Squires, MD, Family Practice Associates of Easley
- Julie Stephens, MD, Wellspring Primary Care
- Ruffin Stephenson, MD, Upstate Osteoporosis & Arthritis
- Samuel Sterrett, DO, Palmetto Greenville Urology
- Edward Stewart, DO, Upstate Cardiology
- William Stoddard, MD, Upstate OB/GYN Group
- Terrell Stone, MD, Covenant Internal Medicine
- Chyrel Stoner, MD, Commonwealth Women's Care
- Barry Swiger, MD, Foothills Internal Medicine
- Marc Tanner, MD, Piedmont Orthopaedic Associates
- William Taylor, Jr., MD, Holly Tree Family Practice
- Brian Thompson, MD, Bon Secours Neurology
- Ronald Tollison, MD, North Hills Medical Center
- Michael Tollison, MD, Piedmont Orthopaedic Associates
Vincent Torres, DO, *Poinsett Family Practice*
Michael Towler, MD, *Carolina Surgical Associates*
April Treas, MD, *Woodward Medical Center*
Anne Tuggle, MD, *Families First Family Medicine*
John Vann, MD, *Piedmont Orthopaedic Associates*
Christopher Van Pelt, MD, *Piedmont Orthopaedic Associates*
Meredith Vejnar, MD, *Premier Family Medicine*
James Wallace, MD, *Milestone Family Medicine*
Dylan Watson, MD, *Piedmont Orthopaedic Associates*
Leigh Watson, MD, *Woodward Medical Center*
John Weems, MD, *St. Camillus Palliative Care*
Scott Weikle, DO, *Travelers Rest Internal Medicine*
Cory White, MD, *Bon Secours Endocrinology*
Mark White, MD, *Holly Tree Family Practice*
David Williams, MD, *Vascular Surgery Associates*
Timothy Williams, MD, *St. Francis Cardiovascular & Thoracic Associates*
Bill Wilson, Jr, MD, *Powdersville Primary Care*
John Womack, III, MD, *Piedmont Orthopaedic Associates*
Kathleen Woschkolup, MD, *Bon Secours Neurology*
Alex Yang, MD, *Bon Secours Hematology & Oncology (formerly Upstate Oncology Associates)*
Bing Yi, MD, *Carolina Surgical Associates*
John York, MD, *Vascular Surgery Associates*
Ronald Yuko, MD, *Carolina ENT*
Meng Zhou-Wang, MD, *Bon Secours Neurology*