



VEHI Adopts Blue Cross Vermont “Travel Rider” Benefit

For VEHI Members in States that Ban or Restrict access to Abortions or Gender-affirming Medical Care

In September, in the wake of the Dobbs’ decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, Blue Cross Vermont introduced its “**travel rider**” **benefit** for any covered member who resides in a state that legislatively bans or restricts access to:

- Surgical or medication-assisted voluntary termination of pregnancy (abortion) services;
- Non-surgical treatments as components of gender-affirming services for trans- and gender-diverse people; or
- Surgical treatments as components of gender-affirming services for trans- and gender-diverse people.

This is not an issue for VEHI members who live in Vermont and seek care here.

VEHI has adopted this rider benefit. So, wherever the medical care above is banned or restricted in the state where they reside, this rider will provide financial assistance to VEHI members or their covered dependents who must travel to another state where the services are available.

Click this link for a flyer that explains the details about the travel rider. In brief, it is a maximum benefit of \$2,500 annually and restricted to reimbursement for travel and hotel lodging. It is subject to current cost-sharing arrangements.

If you have questions about this decision, please contact VEHI Trust Administrators Bobby-Jo Salls (bobbyjo@vsbit.org) or Mark Hage (mhage@vtnea.org).