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Magellan group to provide behavioral 'Healthchoices' support in Bedford, Somerset counties

By David Hurst
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A Magellan Health Inc. subsidiary will begin assisting Somerset and Bedford counties medical assistance recipients during times of behavioral health benefit needs.

Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania Inc. has started operations as the new Pennsylvania HealthChoices behavioral health contractor for the nonprofit Behavioral Health Services of Somerset and Bedford Counties organization, the group announced Thursday.

HealthChoices is the moniker for Pennsylvania's managed care model that enables people – in this case, Medicaid recipients – to choose which providers they use for drug and alcohol treatment or other mental health support needs.

“I am very appreciative of the leadership from Somerset and Bedford counties, along with the entire BHSSBC team, for their partnership, collaboration and trust in our organization,” said Jim Leonard, CEO of Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania.

“We look forward to providing best-in-class customer service and high-quality behavioral health care for members in Somerset and Bedford counties in collaboration with the BHSSBC team, our local providers and community stakeholders.”



The step isn't new for the organization.

Magellan already administers behavioral health benefits for Medicaid members through HealthChoices contracts with Cambria, Bucks, Lehigh, Montgomery and Northampton counties, Leonard said in a media release.

The group's experience managing behavioral health benefits dates back nearly three decades through collaboration with local providers and community-based partners, he said.

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Care managers (1-800-424-5860) and provider service representatives (1-800-424-3711) are available 24 hours a day to serve BHSSBC.

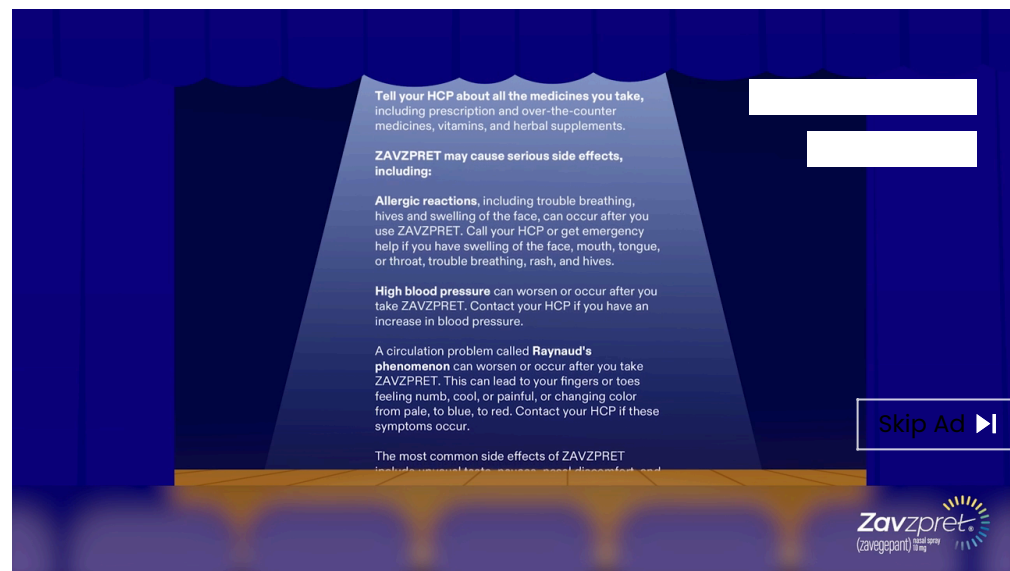
Visit www.magellanofpa.com/somerset-bedford for helpful materials including a member handbook, provider directory, online provider search and additional support.

David Hurst is a reporter for The Tribune-Democrat. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram [@TDDavidHurst](#).

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