MACHINE READABLE FILES

Under the Transparency in Coverage Final Rule, health plans must disclose pricing information to the public through machine readable files accessible via a table of contents file. One file requires disclosure of negotiated rates between plans and providers for covered items and services, known as the In-Network File. The second file discloses unique allowed amounts and billed charges for out of network services, known as the Out-of-Network Allowed Amount File. The table of contents includes links to both types of files. The machine readable files must be posted on a publicly accessible website, free of charge. The file is updated monthly.

A machine readable file is a digital representation of information in a file that can be imported or read by a computer system for further processing without human intervention, while ensuring no semantic meaning is lost. The machine readable file exchange uses the JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) file format and leverages CMS schema version 0.10.

To access the machine readable files, click on

1. Link to access: https://bcbstx.com/asomrf?EIN=880106100

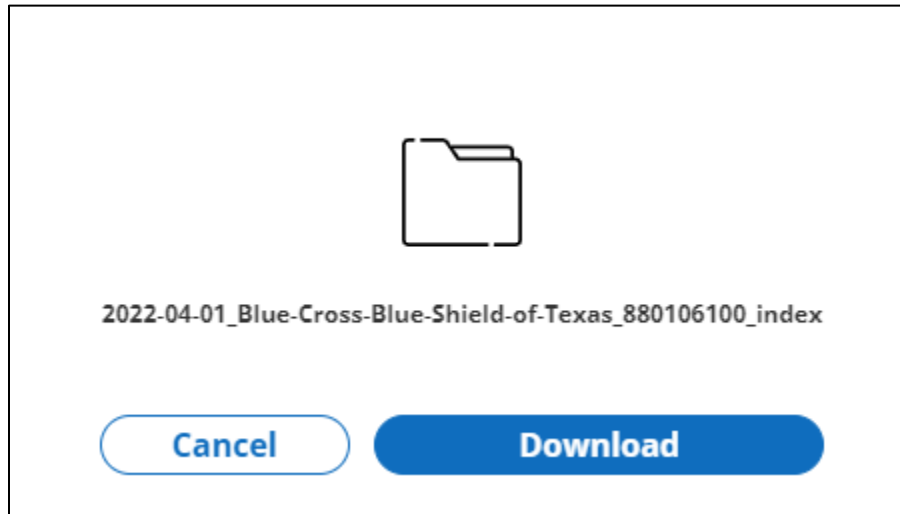## Machine Readable Files

Last Update: 2022-03-28

The information on this page is published as required by the Transparency in Coverage Final Rule. The files within the table of contents below are significantly larger than average website downloads. Your download time/speed is dependent on your home internet speed, browser, and computer hardware. These files are compressed using gzip format, which may require a tool for opening.

Table of Contents

2022-04-01_Blue-Cross-Blue-Shield-of-Texas_880106100_index   ⊕
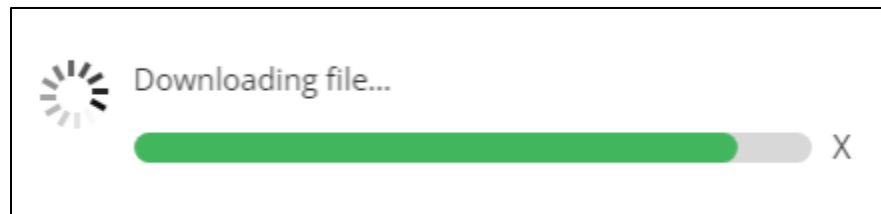
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2. Click on the download button under "File" towards the bottom right-hand side of the screen. Click the button corresponding to the index file the user would like to download

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Table of Contents

2022-04-01_Blue-Cross-Blue-Shield-of-Texas_880106100_index   ⊕

3. A pop-up box will come up asking if the user would like to cancel or download. a. Click on the download button

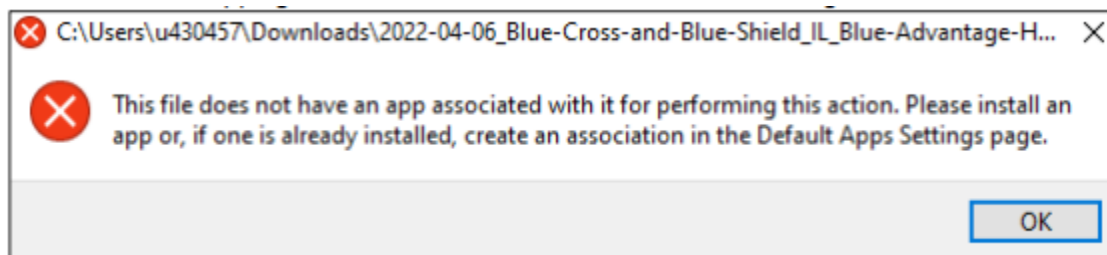4. A note showing the file being downloaded will pop up

5. After the index file is downloaded, open the file a. The file should look like this

```
{
  "reporting_entity_name": "Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas",
  "reporting_entity_type": "third-party administrator",
  "reporting_structure": [{
    "reporting_plans": [{
      "plan_name": "PPO",
      "plan_id_type": "EIN",
      "plan_id": "123456789",
      "plan_market_type": "group"
    }],
    "in_network_files": [{
      "description": "in-network file",
      "location": "https://app0047021tpotstnc135.blob.core.windows.net/output/2022-04-10_Blue-Cross-and-Blue-Shield-Of-Texas_Federal-Employee-Program_in-network-rates.json.gz"
    }],
    "allowed_amount_file": {
      "description": "allowed amount file",
      "location": "https://app0047021tpotstnc135.blob.core.windows.net/output/2022-04-06_Blue-Cross-and-Blue-Shield-Of-Texas_Blue-Advantage-HMO_allowed-amounts.json.gz"
    }
  }]
}
```
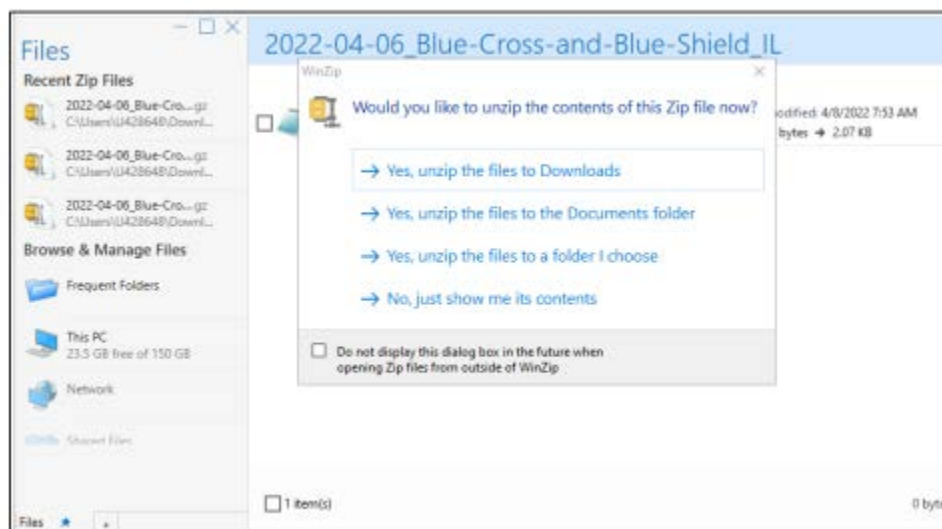
6. The index file will contain the account's benefit plans and In-Network and Out-of-Network Machine-Readable Files. Copy the location URL(s) as highlighted in the screenshot below a. The In Network file is listed under the first 'location' link, with the out of network, or 'allowed amount file' will be indicated with the 2nd 'location reference. b. The URL will be in a .gz (gzip) format 1. Note: The URL being copied in this step is the link to the actual MRF file

```
{
  "reporting_entity_name": "Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas",
  "reporting_entity_type": "third-party administrator",
  "reporting_structure": [{
    "reporting_plans": [{
      "plan_name": "PPO",
      "plan_id_type": "EIN",
      "plan_id": "123456789",
      "plan_market_type": "group"
    }],
    "in_network_files": [{
      "description": "in-network file",
      "location": "https://app0047021tpotstnc135.blob.core.windows.net/output/2022-04-10_Blue-Cross-and-Blue-Shield-Of-Texas_Federal-Employee-Program_in-network-rates.json.gz"
    }],
    "allowed_amount_file": {
      "description": "allowed amount file",
      "location": "https://app0047021tpotstnc135.blob.core.windows.net/output/2022-04-06_Blue-Cross-and-Blue-Shield-Of-Texas_Blue-Advantage-HMO_allowed-amounts.json.gz"
    }
  }]
}
```

7. Users might need to download an unzipping software (e.g. WinZip) to unzip the .gz file
8. To check if the machine being used has built-in unzipping capabilities, paste the copied URL in the browser (e.g. Google Chrome) BCBSTX ASO ACCOUNT ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS
9. If the machine does not have unzipping capabilities, the following error message will pop up. Download an unzipping software, and install it onto the machine being used

10. If using WinZip, the application will automatically open a. Winzip will open to machine's downloaded files folder for user to select gzip file that needs to be unzipped b. User will then have the option to save or open the unzipped file

11. Once the unzipped MRF file is opened, Users will see the machine-readable file in JSON format

```
2022-04-06_Blue-Cross-and-Blue-Shield_IL_Blue-Advantage-HMO_allowed-amounts - Notepad
File  Edit  Format  View  Help
{
    "reporting_entity_name": "Blue Cross and Blue Shield_IL",
    "reporting_entity_type": "health plan issuer",
    "last_updated_on": "4/4/2022",
    "version": "1.0.0",
    "out_of_network": [
        {
            "name": "Blue Advantage Plus Gold 203",
            "billing_code_type": "cpt",
            "billing_code_type_version": "2022",
            "billing_code": "220",
            "description": "ANESTH INTRCRN NERVE",
            "allowed_amounts": [
                {
                    "tin": {
                        "type": "ein",
                        "value": "742730328"
                    },
                    "service_code": [
                        "~",
                    ],
                    "billing_class": "professional",
                    "payments": [
                        {
                            "allowed_amount": "308.56",
```