

INTRODUCTION

The Regence Group

Regence BlueShield of Idaho
Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon
Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Utah
Regence BlueShield

The first health insurance company in the world was started in 1917 by loggers and fishermen in Tacoma, Washington, seeking access to health care. Their arrangement with local doctors formed the basis for a health care model that spread to neighboring communities and states. Generations later, the descendants of those loggers and fishermen now rely on the affiliation of former medical bureaus and hospital groups that coalesced to become Regence. Now the largest health insurer in the Northwest/Mountain States, Regence has more than 2.6 million members in Idaho, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

Regence is an affiliation of four not-for-profit Blue Plans in contiguous states: Regence BlueShield of Idaho, Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon, Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Utah and Regence BlueShield (in Washington). All four not-for-profit Plans are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

The four Plans first came together in 1995 as The Benchmark Group. The original members were King County (Seattle) Medical Blue Shield and Pierce County (Tacoma) Medical Blue Shield, which merged to become Regence BlueShield in Washington; plus Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oregon (Portland) and Medical Service Bureau-Blue Shield of Idaho (Lewiston, Idaho). The company was renamed in 1997, the year Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Utah joined the group, to reflect its “regional alliance.”

Regence is an organization that believes in leading by example. By reducing confusion, waste and red tape, we facilitate service to members, helping them navigate the complex health care system. We innovate and advocate for improved care and costs, promote technology that improves service delivery and help shape public policy discussion to remake the health care system.