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## BCBS members exempt from paying upfront

By *Jennifer Charney, OU Staff Writer*

Oakland University faculty and staff members who have **Blue Cross Blue Shield** health insurance, except for Blue Care Network, don't have to pay upfront for acute care at **Graham Health Center**. The center now can bill Blue Cross; however, members still are responsible for any co-pays.

The center's professionals can treat faculty and staff members for acute illnesses such as colds, sinus infections, urinary tract infections and earaches, as appointments are available, said Joanne Talarek, nurse practitioner and clinical coordinator.

The new billing procedure does not apply to those who have **Blue Care Network** coverage because as an HMO, the plan requires members to see their primary physician first.

"Although we'd always like to accommodate faculty and staff who have acute illnesses, we first schedule students with university insurance and residential students who have neither transportation nor insurance," Talarek said.

"We try to reserve a certain number of walk-in appointments every day for people who are acutely ill, but call ahead and find out if any of those appointments are available."

For a health services appointment, call (248) 370-2341.

### SUMMARY

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