



Dear Dick,

Have you heard of the [Christian Science Provider Network](#) or CSPN? As someone who supports Arden Wood and recognizes the importance of ensuring the availability of Christian Science nursing, you will be pleased to know about it if you or a loved one ever needs to pay for Christian Science nursing care. Awareness and knowledge of such benefits can make all the difference in the healing process—relieving the patient of concern for the cost of care and enabling the patient to focus on healing. The blessing of the CSPN cannot be underestimated or undervalued. It requires all of us to support this Network so that it remains available to support us. Let me explain.

Care is expensive and reimbursement is a benefit many Christian Scientists don't realize they have access to. In federal law, Christian Scientists over 65 are entitled to reimbursement for Christian Science nursing care provided at Medicare Part A facilities, like Arden Wood, or other religious nonmedical healthcare institutions (RNHCI) directly from Medicare and/or a healthcare insurance plan. Anyone who has earned a paycheck has contributed a portion of each check to Medicare throughout their working career. In return, individuals are eligible to enroll in Medicare and to draw on it to cover many health-related expenses.

The ins and outs of Medicare are complex. For that reason, Arden Wood offers informational webinars on Medicare and healthcare insurance options for Christian Scientists 3-4 times a year. Replays of these helpful webinars are available on our website [here](#).

Recognizing the need and the importance of supporting the field, The Mother Church established the Christian Science Provider Network (also known as CSPN or the Network) in 2012 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity to assist Christian Science nursing facilities with third party payors (e.g., insurance companies and Medicare). The CSPN acts as a central hub for claims-processing and appeals, and it ensures payors that member facilities' operations are in good order. The Network handles a significant amount of the work involved in each claim because individual facilities simply don't have the time or the back-office expertise to navigate the complex reimbursement process of large healthcare organizations. Without the Network, claims are often unduly delayed if not unresolved, and reimbursement is in limbo if not lost.

The Church funded the Network during its start-up years; over many subsequent years, Arden Wood and patient families have benefited greatly. In recent years, The Mother Church turned the Network over to the field to support. Accordingly, the Network has charged modest service fees to member facilities and has received thoughtful donations from individuals and organizations. This revenue—much less than TMC’s start-up funding—has resulted in only basic services being provided by a small, part-time Network staff. As a member of the CSPN Board, I am aware of several important services that would benefit the facilities and the field, but they are unavailable due to insufficient funding. The need is real and merits the field’s consideration and [support](#).

[Click here](#) or the blue button below for a fact sheet about the CSPN and a summary of its history and value. “All things work together for good to them that love God” (Romans 8:28) aptly describes our individual and collective connection. In other words, your donations will be greatly appreciated by both organizations, Arden Wood and the Network, and will enable both to continue to support you and your loved ones.

We would greatly appreciate you sharing this information with family and friends. And please feel free to call anytime for assistance with a claim. Arden Wood and the Christian Science Provider Network stand ready to serve you.

Thank you!

Sincerely,



John W. Mitchell
Executive Director / CEO, Arden Wood
Vice President / Secretary, Christian Science Provider Network

CSPN FAQs

How you can donate to the CSPN

- <https://www.csprovidernetwork.org/donate/>

What is a Provider Network?

Provider networks are healthcare providers (e.g., doctors, nurses) and facilities that contract with insurance companies to provide care and services to their members as part of a network under the insurers' health plans; they also ensure a high quality of operation.

What is the Christian Science Provider Network?

The CSPN (or Network) is a network of 11 Christian Science nursing facilities.

What services does the Network provide?

The CSPN works on behalf of its 11 members to negotiate contracts with managed care health plans that cover Christian Science nursing facility care. The Network educates its members on "best practices" for health plan reimbursement and processes its members' claims. It also helps individual Christian Scientists obtain insurance reimbursements for their stays at member facilities.

CSPN History

- In the mid-1980's, more than 300 private health plans covered Christian Science nursing care. By 2012, not one health plan covered Christian Science due to the healthcare industry's shift from separate health plan providers to group or network providers (known today as managed care).
- In 2012, The Mother Church created the Christian Science Provider Network to work with insurers to include coverage of Christian Science care.
- Through CSPN's work over the past decade, denials of coverage are now rare. Today, most health plans authorize patient care in Christian Science nursing facilities.
- The Mother Church funded the CSPN during its start-up years. Funding has decreased since 2017 because it was expected that the CSPN would become self-sufficient through user fees and donations.
- As a 501(c)(3) entity, the Network's income stems primarily from individual and institutional donations along with modest user fees from member facilities.

Network Priorities

- Promote sufficient insurance policy coverage for Christian Scientists who utilize Christian Science nursing facilities.
- Establish rapport with insurance providers to explain how Christian Science care is delivered and the reasons why insurance coverage for Christian Scientists is appropriate.
- Gain acceptance of religious non-medical methods and practices and remove intrusive requirements that compromise the purity and application of Christian Science practice.
- Provide electronic billing consultation and support to facilitate the payment process for patients and Christian Science nursing facilities.

- Encourage prudent practices and efficiencies to improve care and cost-effectiveness.
- Educate and support Christian Science nursing facilities in how to do business with insurance companies.
- Build membership by adding new Christian Science nursing facilities and enhancing service to existing member facilities.
- Help individual Christian Scientists with their questions regarding healthcare insurance.

For More Information:

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