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Prefix Sustainability



**BlueCross
BlueShield**
Association

Blue Cross Blue Shield Association is an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies.

Background: The alpha numeric prefix solution increases the prefix pool for future use while ensuring existing alpha prefixes did not change. This ensures Plans have enough prefixes to support current and new business.

SOLVING THE PREFIX SHORTAGE

Prefix Sustainability Subgroup

The subgroup was formed to assess the prefix shortage and discuss viable solutions to sustain the prefix population.

Prefix Solution

- Allow numeric values to be used within a prefix
- Sustain the prefix pool for years to come with software updates

IPPC Directive

On March 1, 2016, the IPPC Sub-Committee approved moving forward with the alpha numeric changes to the prefix.

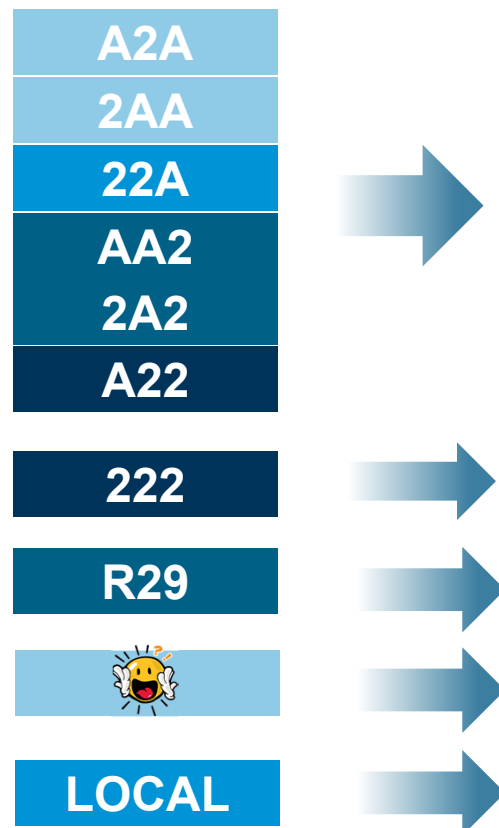
Implementation

All Plans must be able to accept and alpha numeric prefix by April 15, 2018. The first set of alphanumeric prefixes will be made available June 1, 2018.

Alpha Numeric|

The Prefix Portal will manage the alpha numeric prefix combinations in a set order, taking into account exclusions and local prefix not associated with a Plan Profile Rule

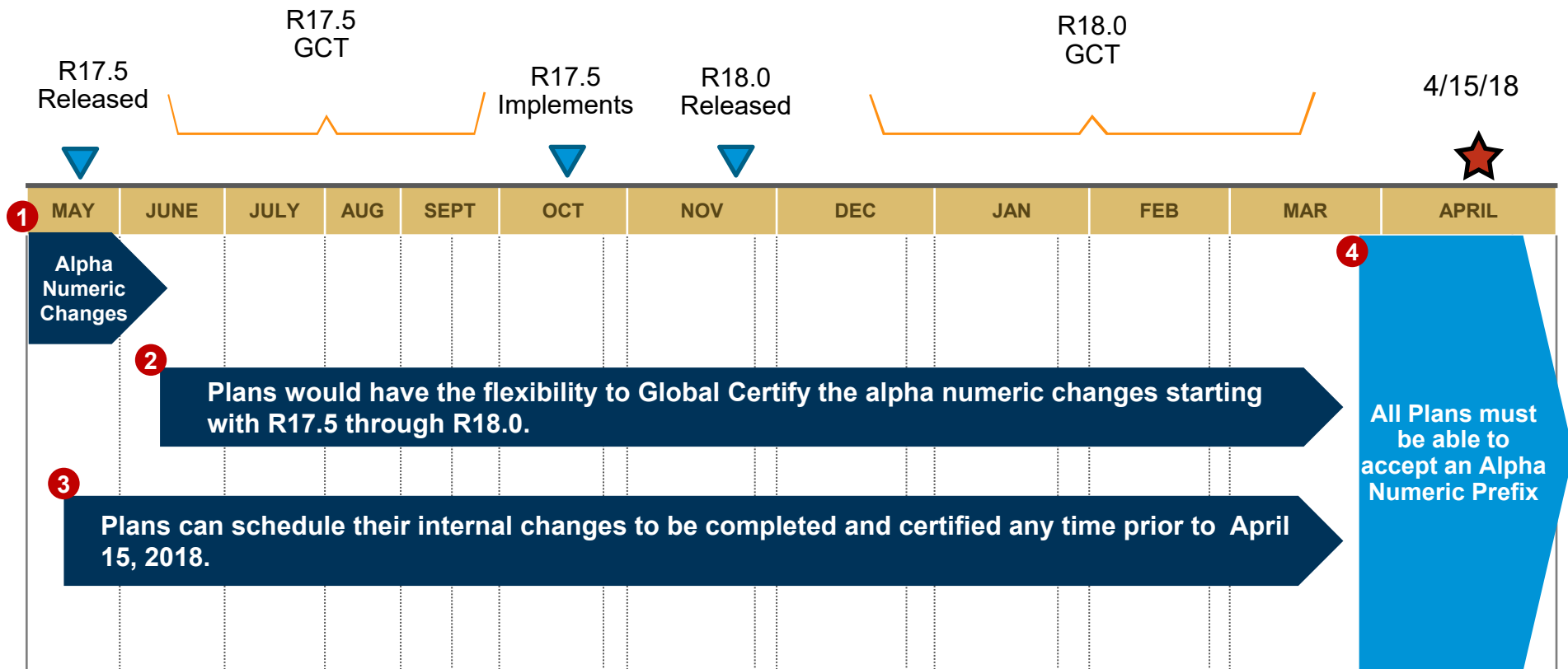
Prefix Combinations



- Six sets of alpha numeric prefix combinations will be available
- New sets will only be available when all prefixes are exhausted
- Numeric will not include 0 or 1
- Numeric only will not be allowed
- Prefixes mistaken for FEP will not be allowed
- Inappropriate prefixes will not be allowed to be used
- Plan local prefixes (branded/unbranded) will not be used

Implementation Timeframe

Plans will have two Releases they can choose to test prefix changes in



June 1, 2018 the first set of alphanumeric prefixes will be made available to all Plans.

Sustaining the Prefix Population

Once the alpha numeric changes are implemented, how do we sustain the prefix pool?

Release 19.5 will introduce an Prefix Account ID into Plan Profile. This will allow the same prefix to be used on Custom Rules with multiple fee arrangements.

Plans will need to evaluate the true need for a prefix. Accounts with the same characteristics could be used under the same prefix.

Plan and Account prefixes are all part of the same pool. There is no specific block of prefixes for one Plan. Policy changes will go into effect determining when a Prefix is needed.

As new programs and initiatives emerge, we must steer away from using a prefix as the only way to distinguish these

Questions?