

October 9, 2026, HBR Alert!



State Health Plan Extends Open Enrollment until Nov. 6

The State Health Plan (Plan) has extended Open Enrollment for 2027 benefits through **November 6, 2026**. The extension gives you more time to review your options and make or update your elections before the deadline.

This morning the Plan filed a request for a temporary restraining order in Wake County Superior Court, seeking to halt Atrium Health's recently announced [Affordability Protection Program](#). The Plan argues that the program could increase costs for the Plan and its members, making the Plan's already difficult financial outlook worse.

Atrium's program could lower out-of-pocket costs for some members who receive care at Atrium facilities in 2027. However, at the same time, Atrium intends to continue charging the Plan its current rates, which are among the highest charged by major hospital systems. The Plan is simply not in a financial position to absorb such costs.

The Plan's four-tiered provider network for 2027 was designed to preserve access to care while encouraging competition and helping manage costs. The Preferred hospital systems- UNC Health and Novant- as well as our Access partner Duke Health and others, have all offered significant discounts to the Plan. Atrium did offer the Plan discounts as well- but never equal to what these systems offered- and weeks after contracts had already been signed.

The Plan recognizes that the recent announcement may raise questions, especially for members in areas served by Atrium. Use the extended Open Enrollment period to review your coverage options and make or update your elections by **November 6**.

A Member Alert will be sent to all members today as well. We appreciate your continued work and partnership during Open Enrollment.

[Click here to read full announcement →](#)

[Click here for an updated Open Enrollment flyer you can utilize at your worksite →](#)

2027 OPEN ENROLLMENT



NOW **EXTENDED** UNTIL
Oct. 12-Nov. 6, 2026

