



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Illinois**

August 18, 2006

Producer News

Announcing Changes to the Contracting Hospital Network for Medicare Select

Your business is important to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois. We are committed to providing you with the most current and up-to-date information on our contracting hospital network. As you know, the hospitals with whom we contract are key factors in our ability to serve our producer community and maintain our customer base.

I am pleased to announce Alexian Brothers Medical Center in Elk Grove Village, Illinois has joined the contracting hospital network for Medicare Select as of July 1, 2006. This will give us additional capacity and provide our members in the Northwest suburbs with greater access to hospitals in this network.

However, effective as of August 12, 2006, Rush University Medical Center on 1720 West Polk Street in Chicago, Illinois will no longer be a part of the network of contracting hospitals for Medicare Select.

Although Rush University Medical Center is no longer a part of the network, we continue to maintain contracts with large university medical centers. Some examples include: Northwestern Memorial Hospital, University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics and the University of Illinois Medical Center. Our members are also free to visit any of the other network hospitals including Rush North Shore Medical Center in Skokie, Illinois Masonic Medical Center and John H. Stroger Hospital of Cook County.

We will be sending out a letter to our members that will potentially be affected by the departure of Rush University Medical Center in order to provide information on alternative network providers. We intend to mail the letter on Tuesday, August 22st to a circulation of approximately 93,000. Please see the following document for a copy of the member communication. For individuals who are currently in process, we will include information regarding the recent changes in the network for Medicare Select with the policy fulfillment kits.

If you have any further questions or need more information, contact your Marketing Consultant or General Agent.

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