



BlueCross BlueShield
of Illinois

October, 2009

Dear BlueChoice PCP/Group:

Enclosed is your 2009 BlueChoice profile summarizing your performance as a BlueChoice primary care provider (PCP). So that you can compare your performance to that of your peers, specialty-specific comparison results for cost efficiency and quality measures are provided. **BlueChoice primary care practices should note that the PPO network is larger than the BlueChoice network. Therefore, there may be differences between this report and the PPO Practitioner Profile report that you received in October 2009.**

The following components are included in the 2009 BlueChoice Profile:

I. COST EFFICIENCY - The Cost Efficiency report provides information on costs of care for your BCBSIL PPO and BlueChoice patients compared to your peers. Cost Efficiency is reported using Thomson Reuters' Medical Episode Grouper® (MEG). MEG uses demographic and diagnosis data from claims to link inpatient, outpatient and pharmacy services into disease-related episodes of care, and to classify the severity of disease within an episode using the Medstat Disease Staging® patient classification system. A Cost Efficiency score above or below 1.00 (average) indicates higher or lower resource usage when compared to your peers for treatment of patients with similar conditions. A Case-Mix score above or below 1.00 indicates a patient panel with a higher or lower level of severity than your peers.

II. QUALITY - Results are reported on Clinical Quality Indicators for BCBSIL BlueChoice and PPO members. Patient specific reports are available upon request. Clinical quality indicator abstracts can be accessed from the BCBSIL web-site <http://www.bcbsil.com/provider/umqi/clinical.htm>.

For details regarding the indicators included in the BlueChoice Profile, please see enclosed criteria document.

We encourage you to share the enclosed report with all of the practitioners who submit claims using the Blue Shield number printed on the Profile. Our goal is to maintain a network of physicians that provide both effective and cost-efficient care. BCBSIL appreciates your cooperation and participation in our BlueChoice network. If you have any questions or comments about your BlueChoice Profile, Please call the Profile hotline at (312) 653-5005.

Sincerely,
BCBSIL Health Care Management