



September 29, 2010

*Emergency room physician groups at 13 hospitals withdraw from HMO plan's provider network; HMO plan members can continue to access emergency services without being balance-billed*

The Office of Group Benefits was notified recently that emergency room physician groups at 13 Louisiana hospitals have withdrawn from the network of providers for OGB's HMO health plan, administered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana.

Negotiations are continuing between Blue Cross and the Schumacher Group, which represents these physician groups. Regardless of the outcome of these negotiations, HMO plan members can continue to access emergency services at these facilities without being billed for any charges that exceed allowable amounts for OGB's HMO plan. As always, HMO plan members will continue to pay applicable deductibles and co-insurance.

The hospitals are:

- Abrom Kaplan Memorial Hospital
- Avoyelles Hospital, Marksville
- Dauterive Hospital, New Iberia
- Jennings American Legion Hospital
- Louisiana Medical Center and Heart Hospital, Lacombe
- Oakdale Community Hospital
- Rapides Regional Medical Center, Alexandria
- Savoy Medical Center, Mamou
- Regional Medical Center of Acadiana, Lafayette
- Springhill Medical Center
- West Calcasieu Cameron Hospital, Sulphur
- Winn Parish Medical Center, Winnfield
- Women and Children's Hospital, Lake Charles

If you have questions, call OGB Customer Service at 1-800-272-8451 (toll-free) or 225-925-6625 (in the Baton Rouge calling area).