

# BenAlert

**BENEFIT TRENDS AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

SEPTEMBER, 2011



**HOWITT**  
Benefit Services

Howitt Benefit Services is pleased to provide you with periodic updates on benefit trends and legislative updates. As part of our valuable services, we want to ensure that you are in compliance and well-informed of the ongoing changes in our industry.

## **In this BenAlert:**

- Anthem Blue Cross drops Stanford Medical Center from PPO and HMO Networks effective September 1, 2011**

## **URGENT NOTICE!**

We have recently been notified that Anthem Blue Cross and Stanford Medical Center have been unable to reach an agreement regarding mutually acceptable rates of reimbursement. Therefore, effective September 1, 2011, Stanford University Hospital, Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital (LPCH) and Stanford Medical Group are not part of the Anthem Blue Cross PPO or HMO networks. We are sending this to all of our clients because of the importance of this situation.

Anthem members will be notified shortly regarding this situation. This [FAQ](#) provides answers for some of the broad issues. Should you have additional questions or need assistance with a specific situation, please contact us at 866-445-1550.

These disruptions in network services are not uncommon, although we do recognize the importance of the Stanford Medical Center in our area. Both parties have indicated that negotiations are continuing. We are hopeful that an agreement will be reached soon.

Again, should you have any questions, concerns or need assistance, please contact us.

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