

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:

- **Blue Shield drops Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital from PPO and HMO networks effective September 1, 2011**

URGENT NOTICE!

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

Blue Shield members will be notified shortly regarding this situation. This [letter from Blue Shield](#) 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 Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital 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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