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To: All Providers
Contracts Affected: All Lines of Business
(except ASO, standard Direct Pay,
and State and Federal Contracts)

Medicare Part B Contract Enforcement

Effective January 1, 2009, BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York will be enforcing an existing contract provision which requires all members eligible for Medicare Part B benefits to be enrolled in Medicare Part B in order to receive full benefits under their contract. This implementation will impact the way claims are processed and does not change the member's contractual benefits.

Members who have Medicare as their primary insurer and BlueCross BlueShield as secondary coverage must enroll in a Medicare Part B plan in order to receive their complete benefits.

BlueCross BlueShield will become the secondary payer to Medicare Part B for members that are eligible for Part B benefits for those services covered by Medicare. For all medical services **not** covered by Medicare, claims will continue to be paid according to the member's benefit plan.

This contract enforcement will not impact ASO, standard Direct Pay accounts, or State and Federal contracts.

We will be communicating this information directly to brokers, employer groups and members to ensure they are aware of this enforcement. If you have any questions regarding this bulletin please contact Provider Services at 1-800-950-0051 or 1-716-884-3461.