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To: All Participating Providers

Credentialing and Recredentialing Through CAQH Effective August 1, 2009

In 2006, BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York proudly joined the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH), a nonprofit alliance of health plans and trade associations. The provider-data collection initiative of the CAQH is aimed at simplifying administrative processes for providers and health plans, resulting in positive health care encounters for patients.

Effective August 1, 2009, all providers not currently using CAQH will be required to enter their credentialing information (free of charge) into a secure, state-of-the-art data center at www.caqh.org. The CAQH application meets the credentialing needs of health plans, hospitals and other health care organizations as well as meeting all related standards for:

- Utilization Review Accreditation Commission (URAC)
- National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)
- Joint Commission

The CAQH provider-data collection service streamlines the initial application and recredentialing processes, which reduces provider administrative burdens and costs. It offers health plans and networks real-time access to reliable provider information for claims processing, quality assurance and member services, such as directories and referrals. Providers submit data through CAQH and authorize health plans, as well as other organizations, to access the information. Periodic provider updates help ensure that the information is always current.

In addition to being recognized by a number of state legislators and insurance commissioners, CAQH is supported by:

- American Medical Association
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American College of Physicians
- America's Health Insurance Plans
- Medical Group Management Association
- National Association of Medical Staff Services

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact the Provider Enrollment Department at 1-716-887-7500.