



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Illinois**

September 7, 2005

Producer News

Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Update (Part D)

In an effort to help our members learn more about upcoming Medicare prescription drug coverage, we enclosed a brochure, "Your Guide to New Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage," in their August and September billing statements. Please refer to your August 31st Producer Update which included a copy of the brochure.

For more information on Medicare prescription drug coverage, contact Medicare officials by telephoning 1-800-633-4227; TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. On the Internet, visit the Web site www.medicare.gov and click on "More Detailed Information" about the Medicare Modernization Act for Beneficiaries and Caregivers. For Illinois residents, www.illinoisbenefits.org offers information on the new prescription drug program and Medicare Supplement insurance.

Look for further Medicare prescription drug coverage updates in the coming weeks.

We've Been Upgraded!

We're pleased to announce that in June, A.M. Best Company upgraded the financial strength ratings to A+ (Superior) from A (Excellent) of Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC), a Mutual Legal Reserve Company (d/b/a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois/Texas/New Mexico) (HCSC) (Chicago, IL) and its affiliates. These rating actions reflect HCSC's established market presence in its selected health coverage markets, sound financial and operating discipline, as well as solid capitalization. Please share this exciting news about the financial strength of BCBSIL with your customers. The new Best's Rating Report pamphlets are available for ordering online at www.bcbsil.com/dmagents.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois refers to HCSC Insurance Services Company, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company. These companies are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association and offer or provide services for Medicare Part D products under HCSC Insurance Services Company's contract [S5715] with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.