

35-11

**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ALL-EMPLOYEES MEMORANDUM**

DATE: November 30, 2011

**NEW ALTERNATE NETWORK AVAILABLE TO EMHP
MEMBERS IN THE POINT OF SERVICE (POS) PROGRAM**

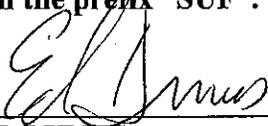
As part of our continuing effort to provide our members with important updates regarding the Employee Medical Health Plan of Suffolk County (EMHP), the Labor/Management Committee, which oversees the EMHP, is pleased to announce the following:

Effective January 1, 2012, all active members and non-Medicare eligible members residing in New York State, who are enrolled in the Empire BlueCross BlueShield (EBCBS) POS Plan, will now have access to EBCBS' Nationwide PPO network outside the lower 28 counties of New York State under an Alternate Network Point of Service (POS) program. Please refer to the attached Suffolk County Alternate Network Flow Chart, prepared by EBCBS, which details local and national network coverage based upon member status (active/retired); Medicare eligibility; and residency. This also means out-of-state college students, family members, snowbirds and vacationers will now be able to access an in-network provider wherever they are and take advantage of the in-network benefits.

This new Alternate Network Point of Service (POS) program gives you access to the same physicians at over 84,000 locations you have been able to access in EBCBS's local area (i.e. lower 28 counties of New York State) PLUS over 540,000 providers nationally that were not on your network before. To locate a provider in the network, call EBCBS directly at 1-800-939-7515.

Members, who are currently covered under the POS Plan, will receive new I.D. cards with a change in the prefix to "CDK".

If you reside in a state outside New York State or are Medicare Prime, you will remain on our PPO program, maintain the same networks that are available to you currently, and you may continue to use your current I.D. card with the prefix "SUF".


ED DUMAS
Chief Deputy County Executive

Distribution
One copy per employee

Suffolk County Alternate Network Flow Chart 1-1-2012- by Empire BlueCross BlueShield

Suffolk Member	Current Plan Access	Plan Access as of January 1, 2012
Member is currently Active or a Retiree, under 65, residing in the lower 28 Counties of NY, in POS Service area.	Member and eligible dependents are currently on POS plan. Access is Local POS network for In Network Care. If member goes outside POS service area, emergencies are covered in full. <u>Non-emergencies outside service area covered out of network.</u>	Member and eligible dependents will stay on POS plan with same Local Network. Member and eligible dependents now have Blue Card Access throughout country, with access to all PPO networks, and Plan pays on In-Network basis. Outside NY, PPO discounts apply. In NY all POS criteria unchanged. *New ID cards would be issued.*
Member is currently Active or a Retiree, under 65, residing outside the lower 28 Counties of NY, NOT in POS Service area.	Member and eligible dependents are currently on PPO Blue Card program.	Member and eligible dependents will be moved to POS plan with same Local Network. Member and eligible dependents will <u>still</u> have Blue Card Access throughout NY State (outside POS Service area), and the country, with access to all PPO networks, and Plan pays on In-Network basis. Outside NY POS Service area, PPO discounts apply. If within POS service area in NY, would access POS network only for in network services. *New ID cards would be issued.*
Member is Medicare Prime	Member and eligible dependents are currently on PPO Blue Card program.	Member and eligible dependents will remain on PPO Blue Card program. NO CHANGE
Member is currently Active or a Retiree, under 65, residing in NJ or CT.	Member and eligible dependents are currently on POS plan. Access is Local POS network in NJ and CT, and NY. If member or eligible dependent goes outside POS service area, emergencies are covered in full. <u>Non-emergencies outside service area covered out of network.</u>	Member and eligible dependents go on PPO program with Nationwide access to all PPO networks. Plan pays on In-Network basis. *New ID cards would be issued.*
Member is currently Active or a Retiree, under 65, residing in all other states.	Member and eligible dependents are currently on PPO Blue Card program.	Member and eligible dependents remain on PPO Blue Card program. NO CHANGE

As of January 1, 2012 ALL members will have Nationwide Network access for ALL services.