

## **Agreement Reached between BCBS and TCPA**

Good news for University of Houston employees and their families!

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas and Texas Children's Pediatric Associates have reached an agreement for TCPA's 140 pediatricians to continue as in-network physicians for BCBSTX's networks.

In August, TCPA, whose pediatricians have office practices around the metropolitan area and are affiliated with Texas Children's Hospital, sent letters to patients' families warning them that they might have to look for new pediatricians if TCPA was unable to agree on a new contract with Blue Cross.

The letters resulted in a storm of protest from parents. Many were sent from U of H employees concerned about their family's continuity of care.

According to a Houston Business Journal article, Blue Cross Blue Shield said in a press release on October 15th that "both parties agreed it was in the best interest of Texas Children's Pediatric Associates and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas customers to work through the difficult issues and come to an agreement before the contract expired early next year."

This agreement comes as a big relief to so many U of H employees who truly value their relationship with their TCPA provider and have health insurance coverage through BCBS of Texas. If you have any questions about your benefits at U of H, please contact the Benefits Department at 713-743-5764.