

## Premera Network Change for Schumacher Clinical Partners

Starting July 1, 2016, Schumacher Clinical Partners (Schumacher) has decided to terminate their contract and will no longer be in the Premera network of contracted doctors and hospitals.

This change includes Washington Emergency Physician Partners and Sterling Emergency Services of Washington. These groups supply emergency room (ER) staff to the following hospitals.

- Deaconess Hospital, Spokane, Washington
- Valley Hospital, Spokane, Washington
- Yakima Regional Medical & Cardiac Center, Yakima, Washington
- Toppenish Community Hospital, Yakima, Washington

What this means to Premera members

If a member needs emergency care, they should keep in mind:

- The hospitals listed above will still be contracted with Premera.
- Under a Premera health plan, ER services are always covered at the in-network benefit level.
- Schumacher and its doctors bill separately for their services. Because they have terminated their contract, they can set a price for their services that is higher than doctors who are in Premera's network.

Premera is aware that a member may not be able to choose their doctor in an emergency. Whenever possible, they can limit out-of-pocket costs when they see a doctor who is in their plan's network.

The following area hospitals are in your plan's network and also have ER staff who are in your plan's network:

- Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center and Children's Hospital, Spokane, Washington
- Providence Holy Family Hospital, Spokane, Washington
- Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital, Yakima, Washington

Members also can call customer service to discuss their options.

Premera will let members and groups know about Schumacher's decision to terminate their contract. On July 1, 2016, we will send an email to group administrators and begin mailing letters to members who live in the counties with affected hospitals.