

Status of Hospital Negotiations

Westchester Medical Center (Valhalla, NY)

The contract between Empire BlueCross BlueShield and Westchester Medical Center expired on October 31, 2010. As a result, effective November 1, 2010, Westchester Medical Center is no longer a participating facility with Empire BlueCross BlueShield, the Empire Plan's hospital insurer. To date, negotiations between Empire BlueCross BlueShield and Westchester Medical Center have been unsuccessful. Please continue to visit our website for updates on the negotiations.

How does this affect you?

As of the date of hospital termination, only the following services provided by Westchester Medical Center will be covered on an in-network basis:

- Cases of emergency
- For continuation of care for pregnancy if you are in your second or third trimester of pregnancy as of the date the hospital ceased to be a participating facility, you will continue to be covered through the delivery of your child and post-partum care directly related to the delivery
- For any services that were previously preauthorized
- In-patient services for an admission which occurred before the date the hospital ceased to be a participating provider
- If no network hospital is available within 30 miles of your residence that can provide the services required
- If a network hospital is not available within a 30 mile radius from your home

That means; if you choose to have services at Westchester Medical Center, except for the special circumstances listed above, **you will be covered on an out-of-network basis**. It is also important to understand that there will be no immediate interruption of care that is already underway at these hospitals. Please see some answers to common questions listed below:

What if I am pregnant, can I receive maternity care services at Westchester Medical Center?

Yes. If you are in your second or third trimester of pregnancy as of the date the hospital ceased to be a participating facility in the Empire BlueCross BlueShield network, you will continue to be covered through the delivery of your child and post-partum care directly related to the delivery.

What if I am not pregnant and I am currently receiving services at Westchester Medical Center as of the date the

facility ceased to participate in the Empire BlueCross BlueShield network, will my care be interrupted?

No. If you are currently receiving services at Westchester Medical Center and you are in an ongoing course of treatment, you may continue to receive services at Westchester Medical Center during a transitional period of up to 90 days.

How will claims for services received at Westchester Medical Center be paid if they are no longer participating?

Empire BlueCross BlueShield will issue payment for covered services directly to you.

What should you do?

If you are currently receiving services from Westchester Medical Center, are scheduled for treatment at Westchester Medical Center, or would like an alternate list of participating facilities, please call Empire BlueCross BlueShield toll-free at **(800) 495-9323**, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. EST. The customer service representatives will be able to answer any questions you may have.