



Department of Civil Service

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor
LOLA W. BRABHAM
Acting Commissioner

November 12, 2019

Dear NYSHIP Enrollee:

The New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) plan in which you are currently enrolled, HMOBlue (Option 160), will be offered as a Medicare Advantage plan for 2020. If you or your covered dependents are Medicare primary, you and/or your covered Medicare-primary dependents will be automatically enrolled in HMOBlue's new Medicare Advantage plan effective January 1, 2020. Your non-Medicare-primary dependents will remain in HMOBlue's commercial plan.

If you are Medicare primary and do not want to be enrolled in HMOBlue's Medicare Advantage plan, you may enroll in another NYSHIP plan (The Empire Plan or, if applicable, another NYSHIP HMO that serves the area where you live or work). Watch your mailbox for the *Health Insurance Choices for 2020* book and 2020 rate information to help with your decision.

If you want to remain enrolled in HMOBlue (Option 160), you do not have to do anything. Your new benefit card(s) will be mailed to your home. If you want to make a change, however, you must complete the following forms found in *Retiree Choices*:

- Option Transfer Request form (send to the Employee Benefits Division)
- NYSHIP Medicare Advantage HMO Enrollment Cancellation form (send to HMOBlue)

Note: This change will not count as your one allowable option change in a 12-month period.

If you have questions about the option transfer process, call the Employee Benefits Division at (518) 457-5754 or 1-800-833-4344. If you have questions about The Empire Plan, call 1-877-769-7447. HMOBlue can be reached at 1-877-883-9577. If you have questions about another NYSHIP HMO, call the HMO directly using the numbers listed in *Choices*.

Sincerely,

Employee Benefits Division