



STATE OF NEW YORK

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DANIEL E. WALL  
COMMISSIONER

**NY06-47**  
**PE06-36**  
**PA06-28**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** New York State Health Benefits Administrators  
Participating Agency Health Benefits Administrators  
Participating Employer Health Benefits Administrators  
**FROM:** Employee Benefits Division  
**SUBJECT:** *Empire Plan Reports, NYSHIP General Information Book and Empire Plan Certificates, HMO Reports*  
**DATE:** January 18, 2006

We will soon mail the December 2006 *Empire Plan Reports, NYSHIP General Information Book/Empire Plan Certificate Amendments* and *HMO Reports* to the following groups: CSEA, PEF, DC 37, Council 82, NYSCOPBA, PBA Supervisors, PBA Troopers, PIA, UUP, Unified Court System, M/C Legislature, Retirees, Participating Employers, Participating Agencies, (Participating Agencies with CORE benefits will receive the *Empire Plan Report* and Certificate Amendments. Participating Agencies with CORE Plus Enhancements will receive only the *Empire Plan Report*.) The reports vary by group.

**The *Empire Plan Report* includes:**

**Empire Plan Benefits**

Hospital Benefits Program: Copayments; Medical/Surgical Benefits Program: Copayment, Deductible and Coinsurance, HPV Immunization, LabCorp; Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program: Copayments, Depression Management Program

Additional Empire Plan Amendments for Council 82 Subject to Binding Arbitration:

Hospital Benefits Program: Network/Non-network Hospitals, Hospital Extension Clinics; Benefits Management Program: Hospital Coverage; Medical/Surgical Benefits Program: Radiology, Anesthesiology, Pathology, Prostheses and Orthotic Devices, External Mastectomy Prostheses, Hearing Aids, Basic Medical Provider Discount Program, Centers of Excellence for Cancer Program, Infertility Benefits Maximum; Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program: Substance Abuse Lifetime Maximum; Prescription Drug Program: Copayments, Mandatory Generic Substitution

New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) Change for Council 82 subject to binding arbitration: Domestic Partner Eligibility

**Empire Plan News and Reminders**

Claims Deadlines, The Empire Plan At A Glance and Copayment Cards, Pre-retirement Seminars, Medicare, Participating Providers, Annual Notice, Web Site, Fraud

(Over)

**Empire Plan Certificate Amendments**

Hospital Benefits Program: Non-network Benefits, Physical Therapy, Copayment for Emergency Care, Transplants Program; Medical/Surgical Benefits Program: Copayment, Coinsurance, HPV Immunization, Deductible, Hearing Aids, Cancer Program; Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program: Emergency Services, Copayments; Prescription Drug Program.

Additional Empire Plan Certificate Amendments for Council 82 Subject to Binding Arbitration:

Benefits Management Program: Hospital Coverage; Hospital Benefits Program: Network/Non-network Benefits, Outpatient MRI, Chemotherapy, Infertility Benefits; Medical/Surgical Benefits Program: Hospital Extension Clinic, Infertility Benefits, Adult Immunizations, Prostheses and Orthotic Devices, Basic Medical Provider Discount Program, Anesthesiology/Radiology/Pathology, Mastectomy Prostheses; Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program: Emergency Services, Outpatient Rehabilitation Program, Substance Abuse Lifetime Maximum.

**NYSHIP General Information Book Changes**

Changing Options, Family Coverage, Exception for Court Order, IRS Regulations.

Additional NYSHIP General Information Book Changes for Council 82 Subject to Binding Arbitration:

Domestic Partner, Identification Card

**The *HMO Report* includes:****NYSHIP Reminders**

Annual Notice, Pre-Retirement Seminars, Medicare, Fraud

**NYSHIP General Information Book Changes**

Changing Options, Family Coverage, Exception for Court Order, IRS Regulations.

Additional NYSHIP General Information Book Change for Council 82 Subject to Binding Arbitration:

Domestic Partner

**Distribution of Reports**

These publications will be mailed to enrollee homes December 2006 through January 2007. We will send you a supply of each publication equal to 3 percent of your enrollment.

**Publications available on our web site: [www.cs.state.ny.us](http://www.cs.state.ny.us)**

Please check this web site for new publications. We generally post publications when we sign off for printing. That means you can see the publications before enrollees start receiving them.

**Ordering Publications**

You may order additional copies of the Reports, including Amendments, by using the Publications Supply Order Forms enclosed with your shipment. Or, instead of faxing the form, you may order on HBA Online (formerly known as ebd\_online). From the Department of Civil Service homepage, [www.cs.state.ny.us](http://www.cs.state.ny.us), select the Benefits Programs button from the left hand navigation. Then click on HBA Online. Open Publications & Forms, then open NYSHIP Publication Order Forms. If you need help accessing HBA Online, please call the Help Desk or your processor.

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