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ACTING COMMISSIONER

NY 07-09  
PE 07-04

TO: New York State and Participating Employer Health Benefit Administrators

FROM: Employee Benefits Division

SUBJECT: Mailing of Timothy's Law Notice

DATE: February 27, 2007

For your information, attached is a notice being sent to all Empire Plan enrollees regarding the benefits available to them under the newly enacted Timothy's Law. GHI expects to begin mailing the notices on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, all NYSHIP HMOs are mailing a similar notice as they are mandated to do by the State Insurance Department as the first step in complying with Timothy's Law.

Timothy's Law mandates a minimum level of mental health benefits and benefit parity for select diagnoses. Although for the most part, the network level benefits provided by the Empire Plan's Managed Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program already meet or exceed the requirements of Timothy's Law, we are currently conducting a complete review of the law and the Plan's compliance with its requirements. Should any benefit changes be required, they will be retroactive to January 1, 2007. We will keep you informed as this review process continues, and amended plan documents and certificates will be issued as soon as possible.

Please direct any employees with questions regarding Timothy's Law benefits to ValueOptions by calling the Empire Plan Information Center at 1-877-7NYSHIP and selecting option #3.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and assistance.

Attachment