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NY07-26

MEMORANDUM

TO: New York State Agency Health Benefits Administrators
FROM: Employee Benefits Division
SUBJECT: Mandated Materials Packages
DATE: August 24, 2007

We are pleased to inform you that the Department of Civil Service has recently begun a new monthly mailing to deliver customized packages of mandatory materials such as privacy and COBRA notices to the homes of new hires, new retirees and enrollees who change options. Please see the complete list of package contents below for details. This new service removes this responsibility from HBAs and also ensures that required materials are provided when legally necessary. Therefore, you are **no longer required** to provide these materials to new hires, new retirees or enrollees who change options from a NYSHIP-approved HMO to The Empire Plan or vice versa.

The first mailing was sent on **August 8, 2007** to new hires, retirees and option changers who were on the NYBEAS file at the end of June or July. Monthly mailings will now flow, with files being pulled from NYBEAS on the last Thursday of the month.

As illustrated below, these packages include a cover letter and vary by group type and benefit plan (Empire Plan or HMO). They may also include additional notices for NYPERL or M/C Life. Although some of these notices have been available as a publication or online, we are now providing them in one envelope that the enrollee should save with their other health insurance materials. Note that our regular NYSHIP publications are NOT included in these packages and that they will continue to be mailed directly to enrollee homes as has been our practice.

The following packages will be mailed to enrollee homes:

NY Empire Plan

- Cover Letter
- NY COBRA notice
- Empire Plan Disclosure Amendment
- UHC Privacy Notice
- Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield Privacy Notice
- NYSHIP Privacy Notice
- NYPERL Notice

Over

NY HMO

Cover Letter
NY COBRA notice
NYSHIP Privacy Notice
NYPERL Notice

M/C Life

M/C Life Book
Enrollment Form
Beneficiary Form

GSEU

Cover Letter
NY COBRA notice
GSEU SEHP Disclosure Amendment
United HealthCare Privacy Notice
Empire BlueCross/BlueShield Privacy Notice
GHI Notice
NYSHIP Privacy Notice

Retiree Empire Plan

Cover Letter
Empire Plan Disclosure Amendment
United HealthCare Privacy Notice
Empire BlueCross/BlueShield Privacy Notice
GHI Privacy Notice
NYSHIP Privacy Notice

Retiree HMO

Cover Letter
NYSHIP Privacy Notice

Thank you for your assistance with delivering these materials in the past. We hope this is helpful to you and to the new enrollee or retiree who will now have coordinated materials. If you have still have questions about the transition to this new way of delivering certain mandated materials, please call the Communications Unit at 518-457-7577.

Coming Soon:

We will be announcing “New Hire and New Retiree” NYSHIP publications packages – quick ordering of publications – soon – that should be a popular HBA option. We will also be announcing a new returned mail process, brought about by changing U.S. Post Office requirements. Future memos will explain these new services.