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**NY08-08**  
**PE08-05**  
**PA08-06**

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** New York State Health Benefits Administrators  
Participating Agency Health Benefits Administrators  
Participating Employer Health Benefits Administrators  
**FROM:** Employee Benefits Division  
**SUBJECT:** January 2008 *Empire Plan Reports and NYSHIP General Information Book/Empire Plan Certificate Amendments*  
**DATE:** May 30, 2008

We will soon mail the January 2008 *Empire Plan Reports and NYSHIP General Information Book/Empire Plan Certificate Amendments* to the following groups: Council 82 Represented, CSEA, DC-37, M/C, NYSCOPBA Represented, PA Plus, PBA-S, PBA-T, PE, PEF, PIA, Retiree, UCS and UUP. Larger Empire Plan Reports including October 1, 2007 benefit changes were prepared for Council 82 Contract Affected employees and NYSCOPBA Contract Affected employees. The reports vary by group.

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

##### **Empire Plan Benefits**

Medical/Surgical Benefits Program: Deductible and Coinsurance and Medicare Part B Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA); Timothy's Law changes to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program: the Disease Management Program, and new carrier and insurer for the Empire Plan Prescription Drug Program.

##### **Additional Empire Plan articles for Council 82 Contract Affected employees and NYSCOPBA Contract Affected employees**

Hospital Benefits Program: Copayments, Network/Non-network Hospitals; Benefits Management Program: Hospital Coverage; Medical/Surgical Benefits Program: Copayments, 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; Prescription Drug Program: Copayments, Mandatory Generic Substitution

##### **New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) Change for Council 82 Contract Affected and NYSCOPBA Contract Affected enrollees**

Domestic Partner Eligibility

**(over)**

**Empire Plan News and Reminders**

Guaranteed Access to Network Benefits, Q&A on New Benefits, Mental Health Coverage, Planning for Retirement video, Participating Providers, Annual Notice.

**Empire Plan Certificate Amendments**

Timothy's Law changes to the Mental Health portion of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program (replaces entire Mental Health and Substance Abuse Certificate).

**Highlights of additional Empire Plan Certificate Amendments for Council 82 Contract Affected employees and NYSCOPBA Contract Affected employees**

Benefits Management Program: Hospital Coverage; Hospital Benefits Program: Network/Non-network Benefits, Outpatient MRI, Chemotherapy, Infertility Benefits; Medical/Surgical Benefits Program: Copayment, Coinsurance Maximum, Infertility Benefits, Prostheses and Orthotic Devices, Basic Medical Provider Discount Program, Anesthesiology/Radiology/Pathology, Mastectomy Prostheses, Infertility Benefits, Cancer Program.

**NYSHIP General Information Book Changes for Council 82 Contract-Affected employees and NYSCOPBA Contract-Affected employees**

Domestic Partner, Identification Card

**Copayment Cards and Reporting on Centers of Excellence for Cancer for Council 82 Contract Affected Employees and NYSCOPBA Contract Affected Employees****Distribution of Reports**

These publications will be mailed to enrollee homes in June 2008. 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. From the Department of Civil Service homepage, [www.cs.state.ny.us](http://www.cs.state.ny.us), select the Benefit 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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