



DAVID A. PATERSON
GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE
ALFRED E. SMITH STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12239
www.cs.state.ny.us

NANCY G. GROENWEGEN
COMMISSIONER

NY09-12
PE09-08

MEMORANDUM

TO: New York State Health Benefits Administrators;
Participating Employer Health Benefits Administrators
FROM: Employee Benefits Division
SUBJECT: January 2009 *Empire Plan Reports and NYSHIP General Information Book/Empire Plan Certificate Amendments*
DATE: March 30, 2009

We will soon mail the January 2009 *Empire Plan Reports and NYSHIP General Information Book/Empire Plan Certificate Amendments* to the following groups: CSEA, DC-37, MC, PE, PEF, Retiree, UCS and UUP.

The *Empire Plan Report* includes:

Empire Plan Benefits

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program: New Insurer and Administrator, Transition Benefits, What's New, Non-Network Inpatient Care (2009 At A Glance Correction) and Questions and Answers; Prescription Drug Program: Flexible Formulary (except CSEA and UCS), Instant Rebate for generic Prilosec (except CSEA and UCS), Half-Tablet Program and Flexible Formulary Questions and Answers (except CSEA and UCS); Basic Medical and Non-Network Mental Health Practitioner Services – Annual Deductible and Coinsurance Maximums; Reminders: Empire Plan At a Glance and Copay Cards, Pre-Retirement Seminars and Participating Provider Directories; Other Articles: IRMAA, Annual Notice of Mastectomy and Reconstructive Surgery Benefits, NYSHIP Dependent Eligibility Verification Project; CAM Program Discontinued and Waiver of Out-of-Pocket Costs

NYSHIP General Information Book Changes

Health Care Spending Account (except PE), COBRA: Continuation of Coverage (PE Only) and Medicare Reimbursement

Empire Plan Certificate Amendments

Hospital Benefits Program: Copayment and Annual Coinsurance Maximum; Medical/Surgical Benefits Program: Copayment, Plan Overview, Meaning of Key Terms, Chronic Care, Basic Medical Program, Annual Deductible, Non-Network Hospital Program Expenses, Exclusions, Coordination of Benefits, Medicare and Medicare Coverage; Mental Health and Substance Abuse Benefit Program: Copayment, Overview, Meaning of Terms Used, Coinsurance Maximum, Medicare Coverage; How, Where, When and Appeals.

(over)

Distribution of Reports

These publications will be mailed to enrollee homes in early April 2009. We will send you a supply of each publication equal to 2 percent of your affected enrollment.

Publications available on our web site: 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, 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.

If you are unsure of how to order publications or have questions about this distribution, please call the Communications Unit at 518-457-7577.