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NY09-15

MEMORANDUM

TO: New York State 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: PBA-S, PBA-T and PIA.

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, Instant Rebate for generic Prilosec, Half-Tablet Program; Questions and Answers and Non-Preferred Copayment Increases; Medical/Surgical Benefits Program: \$30 Copayment for Non-Hospital Outpatient Surgical Locations, Herpes Zoster Vaccine for Shingles, Prosthetic Wig Benefit, Participating Diabetes Education Centers and Diabetic Shoes, Centers of Excellence for Transplants and Cancer, Kidney Resource Services Program, Basic Medical and Non-Network Mental Health Practitioner Services – Annual Deductible and Coinsurance Maximums; Benefit Management Program: Prospective Procedure Review; NYSHIP Change: Leaving School Before Graduation; Reminders: Empire Plan At a Glance and Copay Cards, IRMAA, Pre-Retirement Seminars and Participating Provider Directories; Other Articles: Annual Notice of Mastectomy and Reconstructive Surgery Benefits, NYSHIP Dependent Eligibility Verification Project; CAM Program Discontinued (PIA Only) and Waiver of Out-of-Pocket Costs

NYSHIP General Information Book Changes

Leaving School Before Graduation: When Your Family Coverage Begins, Health Care Spending Account and Medicare Reimbursement

Empire Plan Certificate Amendments

Benefits Management Program: Benefits Management, Prospective Procedure Review and Benefits Management Program; Hospital Benefits Program: Copayment, Outpatient MRI, MRA, CT, PET and Nuclear Medicine tests, Annual Coinsurance Maximum, Skilled Nursing Facility Care and Transplant Programs; Medical/Surgical Benefits Program: Copayment, Plan Overview, Outpatient MRI, MRA, CT, PET and Nuclear Medicine Tests, Meaning of Terms Used, Outpatient Surgical Locations, Chronic Care, Adult Immunizations, Diabetes Education Centers, Basic Medical Program, Annual Deductible, Non-Network Hospital Program expenses, Prosthetic Wigs, Diabetes Education Centers,

(over)

Prospective Procedure Review, Diabetic Shoes, Cancer Program, 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 and Appeals; Prescription Drug Benefits Program: Copayments

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.

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