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**NY13-05**

**TO:** Health Benefits Administrators of New York State  
**FROM:** Employee Benefits Division  
**SUBJECT:** May 2013 *Empire Plan Report*  
**DATE:** May 31, 2013

We are pleased to announce the May 2013 *Empire Plan Report*. You will notice a new format, organized into easy-to-understand categories such as Benefit Changes, What's New, NYSHIP Changes, Empire Plan Changes, NYSHIP Online and Reminders.

The *Report* explains the following changes (as applicable to each group) to Empire Plan benefits resulting from ratified agreements between the State and unions representing State employees, federal health care reform, State mandates and collectively bargained provisions that have been administratively extended to unrepresented groups.

**NYSHIP Changes**

Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBCs)  
Pre-Tax Contribution Program for a Same-Sex Spouse or Domestic Partner

**Empire Plan Changes**

Enhanced Women's Health Care  
Autism Spectrum Disorder  
Prescription Drug Program "New to You"  
Medicare Rx Prescription Drug Program  
Medco Name Change

Combined Annual Coinsurance and Deductible  
Medical/Surgical Program Self-Insured  
Medical/Surgical Program Guaranteed Access to Primary Care  
Convenience Care Clinics  
Licensed Nurse Practitioners  
Vaccine Update  
Changes to Your EOB

**Distribution**

We will send a supply equal to 1% of each group in your agency to you for new employees. See below for specific ordering information.

**Publications Available on Our Web Site: <https://www.cs.ny.gov>**

Please check our web site for new publications. We generally post publications when we sign off for printing. Go to the Department of Civil Service web site at <https://www.cs.ny.gov> and choose Benefit Programs, then NYSHIP Online and select your group and The Empire Plan, if prompted. Publications are available under Using Your Benefits.

**Ordering Publications**

You may order additional copies of the *Empire Plan Report* from HBA Online under Publications & Forms. This publication is included in each group's Quick Order packages, which are only available to order on HBA Online. (They can be mailed direct to the enrollee's home.)

**Please wait until you receive your shipment of the new publications before you place an order.**

If you need help accessing HBA Online, please call the GGC Service Desk at 1-800-HBAEMS1. Call the EBD HBA Help Line at 518-474-2780 with questions about the information in the *Report*. If you are unsure of how to order publications or have questions about this distribution, please call the EBD Communications Unit at 518-457-7577.