



PAEX 19-09

MEMORANDUM

TO: Health Benefits Administrators of Participating Agencies with the Excelsior Plan
FROM: Employee Benefits Division
SUBJECT: October 2019 *Empire Plan Special Report* for PA Excelsior
DATE: November 12, 2019

The October 2019 PA Excelsior *Empire Plan Special Report* is now available online and will soon be mailed to enrollee homes and agencies. This publication describes 2020 Plan benefit changes that were administratively extended to active employees and retirees of Participating Agencies (PAs) enrolled in the Excelsior Plan.

The mailing also includes updated 2020 copayment cards and the *Reporting On Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program* publication, the newest addition in the *Reporting On* series. The publication describes the benefits of choosing mental health and substance use care from a network provider or at a network facility. See HBA memo PAEX 19-12 for additional information about this publication. Please note that updated Excelsior Plan ID cards will be issued to enrollees in December.

The October 2019 *Empire Plan Special Report* for PA Excelsior includes:

Copayment changes, out-of-network deductible and coinsurance amounts and infertility benefits.

The copayment cards for PA Excelsior (EX0055) include:

New Empire Plan copayments for the group as a result of negotiated changes that were administratively extended to the group, effective January 1, 2020.

Distribution

This *Report* will begin to mail to enrollees' homes in late October. The mail file was pulled from NYBEAS on October 21, 2019, so any enrollee who was not on the file on that date should be provided a copy. We will send you two copies of the *Report and copayment cards*, and *Reporting On Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program* will be shipped separately.

Publications Available on NYSHIP Online: www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits

You can also access the *Report* online under Using Your Benefits from the NYSHIP Online home page.

Ordering Publications

You may order additional copies of the *Report, Reporting On Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program* and copayment cards on HBA Online under Publications & Forms. **Please do not order copies until you have received your shipment.**

If you need help accessing HBA Online, contact the ITS Service Desk at 844-891-1786, fixit@its.ny.gov or via chat at <https://chat.its.ny.gov>. 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.