



# Department of Civil Service

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**REBECCA A. CORSO**  
Acting Commissioner

**PAEX 21-17**

**TO:** Health Benefits Administrators of Participating Agencies (PAs) with the Excelsior Plan  
**FROM:** Employee Benefits Division  
**SUBJECT:** Reissuance of Excelsior Benefit Cards  
**DATE:** December 17, 2021









Effective January 1, 2022, a new federal law requires the inclusion of annual out-of-pocket costs on employee health insurance benefit cards and this requirement impacts all NYSHIP plans.

On December 20, 2021, new Excelsior benefit cards will be mailed for all enrollees and covered dependents. The benefit card vendor is working from a list based on the information in NYBEAS on December 8, 2021; therefore, enrollments and changes with a process date of December 9, 2021, or later will receive the newly designed benefit card as part of the regular weekly production schedule.









Enrollees can begin using the new benefit cards immediately and securely shred or destroy all other cards. Enrollees do not need to activate this card or place a call to the Department or the Empire Plan administrators prior to use.

The new benefit cards will include annual deductible and out-of-pocket maximum information. To accommodate differences in these amounts, there will be two versions of the cards (Individual and Family). The cards have also been redesigned to incorporate Plan and administrator logos, the group number and bin number as well as the Department of Civil Service website.

The new Excelsior Individual coverage benefit cards will appear as follows:

 <p><b>NYSHIP</b> New York State Health Insurance Program</p> <p><b>The Excelsior Plan</b></p> <p>Administered by the New York State Department of Civil Service</p> <p>123456789 JOHN ENROLLEE</p> <p><small>\$35 Office Visit \$130 Emergency Department In-network Out-of-Pocket Limits: Drug: \$3,050, Non-drug: \$5,650 Non-network Combined Deductible: \$1,500 Non-network Combined Coinsurance Max: \$4,750</small></p>	<p>For enrollee services, precertification &amp; provider relations, please call: <b>1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447)</b></p> <p>For details on your health benefits, visit <a href="http://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits">www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits</a></p> <p><b>Providers:</b> This card represents but does not guarantee enrollment in the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) for Government Employees.</p> <p><b>Submit hospital, skilled nursing facility and hospice claims to your local Blue Plan.</b> Hospital and related services provided by Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc., a licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.</p> <p>  </p> <p> Group# 030500    Bin# 004336</p> <p>Submit medical provider claims in accordance with your participating provider agreement. Submit behavioral health provider claims to Beacon Health Options. All other non-hospital providers call 1-877-769-7447 for information about eligibility, benefits and claims submission.</p>
--	--

The new Excelsior Family coverage benefit cards will appear as follows:

<p> <b>NYSHIP</b> New York State Health Insurance Program</p> <p><b>The Excelsior Plan</b></p> <p>Administered by the New York State Department of Civil Service</p> <p><b>123456789</b></p> <p>JOHN ENROLLEE JEANNIE DEPENDENT JANE DEPENDENT MICHAEL DEPENDENT JAMES DEPENDENT</p> <p>\$35 Office Visit \$130 Emergency Department In-network Out-of-Pocket Limits: Drug: \$3,050, Non-drug: \$5,650 (Ind); Drug: \$6,100, Non-drug: \$11,300 (Family) Non-network Combined Deductible: \$1,500 (Enrollee; Spouse/Partner; all Children combined) Non-network Combined Coinsurance Max: \$4,750 (Enrollee; Spouse/Partner; all Children combined)</p>	<p>For enrollee services, precertification &amp; provider relations, please call: <b>1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447)</b></p> <p>For details on your health benefits, visit <a href="http://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits">www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits</a></p> <p><b>Providers:</b> This card represents but does not guarantee enrollment in the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) for Government Employees.</p> <p><b>Submit hospital, skilled nursing facility and hospice claims to your local Blue Plan.</b> Hospital and related services provided by Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc., a licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.</p> <p>   <b>Blue Cross Prefix: YLS</b></p> <p> Group# 030500    Bin# 004336</p> <p>Submit medical provider claims in accordance with your participating provider agreement. Submit behavioral health provider claims to Beacon Health Options. All other non-hospital providers call 1-877-769-7447 for information about eligibility, benefits and claims submission.</p>
--	---

If you have questions regarding the new Excelsior benefit cards, please call the HBA Helpline at (518) 474-2780.