



NY 23-21

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** New York State Health Benefits Administrators  
**FROM:** Employee Benefits Division  
**SUBJECT:** Revised Online January 1, 2022 *Empire Plan Certificates*  
**DATE:** October 24, 2023

We are pleased to announce an update to the *Empire Plan Certificate* for active and retired employees of the State of New York. The revised *Certificates* have been updated with amendments through January 1, 2022 and will **only be available online** (on both NYSHIP Online and HBA Online). **Note:** The updated *Empire Plan Certificate* for employees of the State of New York represented by Council 82 (C-82) that explains Empire Plan benefit changes effective January 1, 2023 as a result of the collective bargaining agreement between C-82 and the State of New York is available on NYSHIP Online and was mailed to enrollee homes and shipped to agencies. See HBA Memo NY 23-20 for more information.

Amendments detailing changes to The Empire Plan are also available on NYSHIP Online and HBA Online as reference. The amendments have been incorporated into the online versions of the *Certificate* and the previous version for each group has been archived online for reference only.

The following chart explains when *Certificates* were printed and posted online for each group:

Group	Date of Printed Certificate	Date of Previous Online Certificate
APSU	January 1, 2021	N/A
CSEA*	January 1, 2019	January 1, 2021
DC-37	January 1, 2019	January 1, 2021
M/C; Legislature*	June 1, 2019	January 1, 2021
NYSCOPBA**	June 1, 2019	January 1, 2021
NY Retiree*	January 1, 2021	N/A
PBA	January 1, 2019	January 1, 2021
PEF**	January 1, 2018	N/A

<i>PIA</i>	<i>January 1, 2021</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>UCS*</i>	<i>January 1, 2021</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>UUP**</i>	<i>January 1, 2019</i>	<i>January 1, 2021</i>

\* Updated *Certificates* with changes affecting Empire Plan coverage that took effect on July 1, 2023 are being created and will be printed and mailed to enrollees and agencies.

\*\* Updated *Certificates* with changes affecting Empire Plan coverage that will take effect on January 1, 2024 are being created and will be printed and mailed to enrollees and agencies.

### **Impact on Publication Orders**

As noted above, the January 1, 2022 *Certificates* for these groups will **not** be printed or available to order at this time. Updated *Empire Plan Certificates* will be printed and mailed to enrollees and agencies on a group-by-group basis once new contracts have been ratified and implemented or collectively bargained changes have been administratively extended.

Until such time, the respective printed *Certificate* for each group will continue to be available to order as standalone publications or as part of group Quick Order Packages. An insert will be included in each copy that notes that the most updated version of the *Certificate* is available online. A copy can be printed from the online PDF as well, if necessary.

If you need help accessing HBA Online, contact the ITS Service Desk at 844-891-1786, [fixit@its.ny.gov](mailto: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 project, please call the EBD Communications Unit at 518-457-7577.