



PA 23-04

MEMORANDUM

TO: Health Benefits Administrators of Participating Agencies (PAs) with The Empire Plan
FROM: Employee Benefits Division
SUBJECT: Publications for July 1, 2023 Empire Plan Benefit Changes
DATE: April 27, 2023

Effective July 1, 2023, there will be Empire Plan benefit changes due to changes negotiated by State employee unions that were administratively extended to active employees and retirees of NYSHIP Participating Agencies (PAs) with The Empire Plan.

Special Empire Plan Report

A May 2023 *Empire Plan Special Report* (PA0236) is now available online and will soon be mailed to enrollee homes and agencies. The May *Report* includes information about reduced in-network maximum out-of-pocket limits, single visit copayment, a change to the reimbursement methodology for non-network claims, a new Center of Excellence for Substance Use Disorder and the Site of Care Program for Infusions. **Note:** Since copayments are not changing, copayment cards are still accurate and enrollees may contact HBAs for replacement copies.

Distribution: The May 2023 publication will begin to mail to enrollee homes in early May. The mail files were pulled from NYBEAS on April 22, 2023, so any enrollee who was not on the file on that date should be provided with a copy. We will also ship two copies of the *Report* to agencies.

July 1 Benefit Changes Online Presentation

An informational presentation about the benefit changes has been created and is available online. A [QR code](#) is included in the *Report* to access it using a mobile device or tablet. The approximately 12-minute resource can also be accessed on NYSHIP Online under What's New.

July 1, 2023 revised *At A Glance* and other publications

As a result of the benefit changes, the *At A Glance* publication will be updated. The revised publication will be mailed to enrollee homes in July with an updated *Out of Network Reimbursement Disclosure*. Some of the supplemental publications that are

usually inserted with this publication are not changing for July 1 so they will not be included again. They include the January 1, 2023 *Empire Plan Advanced Flexible Formulary* and the 2023 *Preventive Care Coverage Guide*. We will provide details of their mailing in a follow-up HBA memo.

The *Summary of Benefits and Coverage* (SBC) publication required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has also been updated to reflect the July 1, 2023 benefit changes. Enrollees can access it online at www.cs.ny.gov/sbc or call The Empire Plan toll-free number and select the option for the Medical/Surgical Program to obtain a printed copy.

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

You can access the publications online under Using Your Benefits from the NYSHIP Online homepage.

Ordering Publications

You may order additional copies of the publications on HBA Online under Publications & Forms. **Please do not order copies until you have received your shipments.**

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