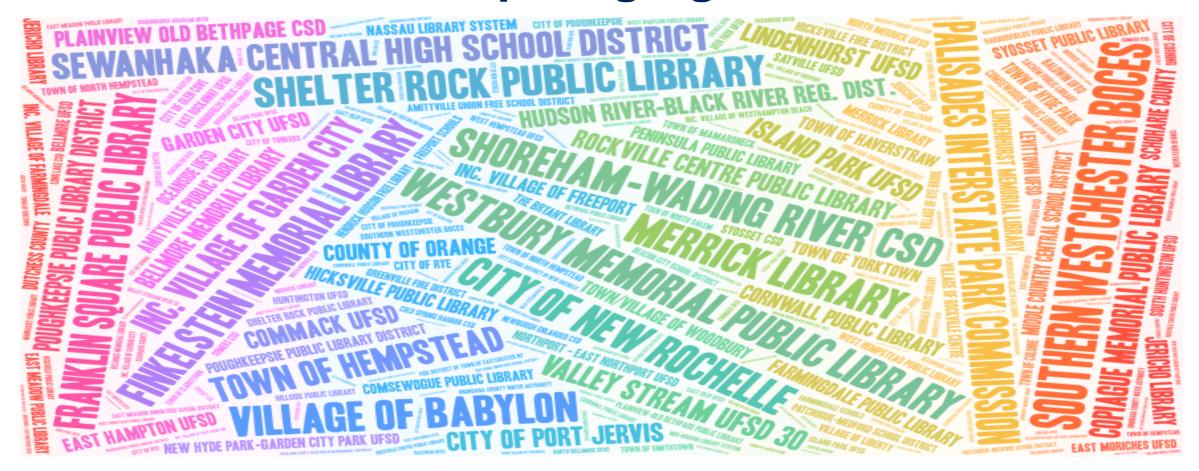
## 2023 Annual Webinar for Participating Agencies

Prepared for use by the Department of Civil Service, Employee Benefits Division representatives only.



**December 18, 2023** 

## Welcome to the 2023 Annual Webinar For Participating Agencies





#### **Agenda**

- A Message from the Director of EBD
- Benefits Administration from PA/PE Unit
- PELU Announcements
- Empire Plan Benefit Changes
- Financial Update
- Questions and Answers







#### A Message from the Director of EBD

Presenter – Daniel Yanulavich, Employee Benefits Division Director



## Message from the Director

#### **Daniel Yanulavich**

518-473-1977

Daniel.Yanulavich@cs.ny.gov





December 18, 2023



#### **Benefits Administration**

Presenters – Michael Jones, PA/PE Unit Supervisor



#### **PA/PE Unit Topics**

- HBA/DAO Access
  - System access for each role
- Correction Requests
  - How to submit and following up on the Corrections Worklist
- Preferred Payment Changes
  - Timely processing
- Effective Dates
  - Processing changes in compliance with NYSHIP effective date rules
- HBA Manual
  - New content



## HBA/DAO Access



#### **HBA/DAO Access**

#### **Data Access Officer (DAO)**

A designated employee of an agency who is authorized to request and terminate user permissions for HBA access for NYBEAS and HBA Online

#### Health Benefits Administrator (HBA)

A designated employee of an agency who is authorized to access NYBEAS and HBA Online

Note: A DAO cannot be an HBA or have access to NYBEAS. An HBA cannot be a DAO



#### **DAO Access**

Agencies designate or change their DAOs by sending a completed *EBD* 545 DAO form signed by the authorized signatory of the agency to EBD

DAOs can request adds, deletes or changes to user permissions for both NYBEAS and HBA Online through the Online Civil Service Permission Request System (OCSPR)

DAOs can request changes to DAO or HBA contact information by sending a fax to 518-485-5590 or an e-mail <a href="mailto:cs.sm.dao-hba@cs.ny.gov">cs.sm.dao-hba@cs.ny.gov</a>

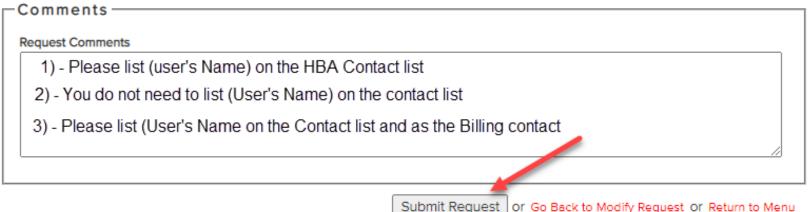
If a DAO is unable to access OCSPR, they should contact the HBA Helpline at 518-474-2780 Option 3 for assistance



#### **HBA Access**

Agencies DAOs designate or change HBAs through the Civil Service Online Permission Request System (OCSPR)

DAOs must indicate if the user is a new HBA under the "Request Comments" section. If there is no comment added, then the user will not be added to EBD's contact list and EBD will not disclose info to the user



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**December 18, 2023** 

#### **HBA Access**

Once the DAO submits the request thru OCSPR, the request goes to the NYS ITS department for review

Once the user has been approved, the DAO who submitted the request will receive **two e-mails** from the ITS Service Desk

One e-mail will provide the User ID for the new user and one will provide the password associated with the User ID

The DAO must forward the email to the user, including all attachments in the email

#### **HBA Access**

For password reset assistance with NYBEAS or HBA Online, you must contact the NYS IT department:

Phone: 844/891-1786

Email: <u>fixit@its.ny.gov</u>

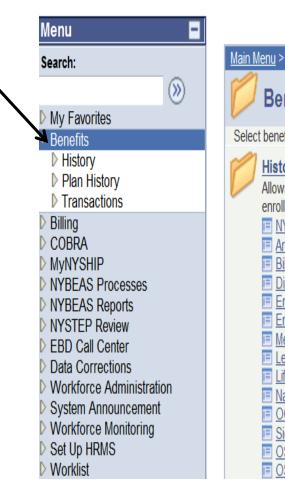
EBD cannot reset an HBA password!

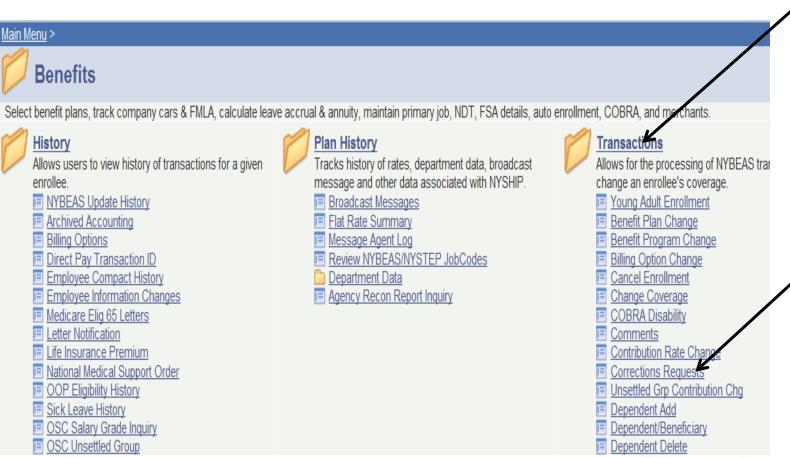


## Corrections Requests



#### **Corrections Requests Transaction**







## **Corrections Requests Transaction**

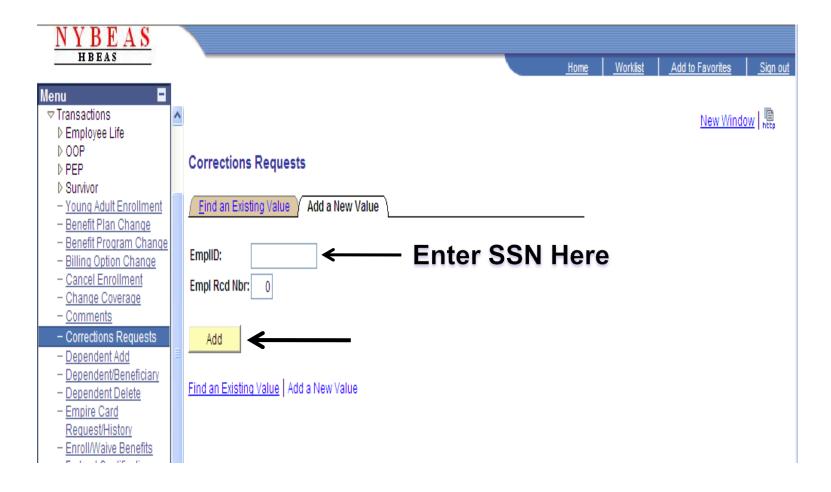
Click Find an Existing Value to search a correction request that has already been submitted. Click Add a New Value to start a new correction

request

D OOP D PEP D Survivor - Young Adult Enrollment		n you have and click Search. Leave fields b	llank for a list of all val
- Benefit Plan Change - Benefit Program Change - Billing Option Change	Find an Existing V		
- Cancel Enrollment - Change Coverage - Comments	EmplID: Empl Rcd Nbr:	begins with 🗸	
- Corrections Requests - Dependent Add - Dependent/Beneficiary	Last Name: First Name:	begins with v	]
– <u>Dependent Delete</u> – <u>Empire Card</u> <u>Request/History</u>	Department: Reference Number:	begins with v	]
- Enroll/Waive Benefits - Federal Qualification Change	Status: Action Date:	=	<b>▼</b>
<ul> <li>Letter Notification</li> <li>Medicare Change</li> <li>Medicare Part D Change</li> </ul>	Search Clea	_	
National Medical Support     Order     Payment Method Change	Find an Existing Valu	. Dasie ocardi a dave ocardi onto	па
- PE First Eligibility Dates	Find an existing valu	e   <u>Auu a New Value</u>	



#### Add a New Value





#### **Corrections Requests Status**

**DO NOT** change the *Status* from *HBA Pending* until all information has been entered! This must be done last

EmplID 123123123 NAME,ENROLLEE Status HPNE  HBA Pending	Empl Rcd# 0 Ref# NEW Old Ref# None				
☐ ID Delete	HBA Phone # 00500				
For EBD/CU Only					
Pull Carrier Daily	Pull Life Benefit Billing Retro				
☐ Pull Carrier Weekly	Change Life Retro Eff Date				
Pull Benefit Billing Retro	Follow up Required				
Change Benefit Billing Retro Eff date	Urgent -				

Header Request | Correction Request | Comments | Billing & EBD Corrections | Final Correction | Final Billing Correct



#### **Header Request Tab**

On the Header Request Tab, you are required to enter the best phone number to reach you in the event we need to reach you to discuss the corrections request

Status HPNC HBA Pending	Empl Rcd# 0 Ref# NEW Old Ref# NONE
☐ ID Delete	HBA Phone # 518/555-5555 Agency 00500
or EBD/CU Only	
Pull Carrier Daily	Pull Life Benefit Billing Retro
Pull Carrier Weekly	Change Life Retro Eff Date
Pull Benefit Billing Retro	Follow up Required
Change Benefit Billing Retro Eff date	Urgent -



## **Corrections Request Tab**

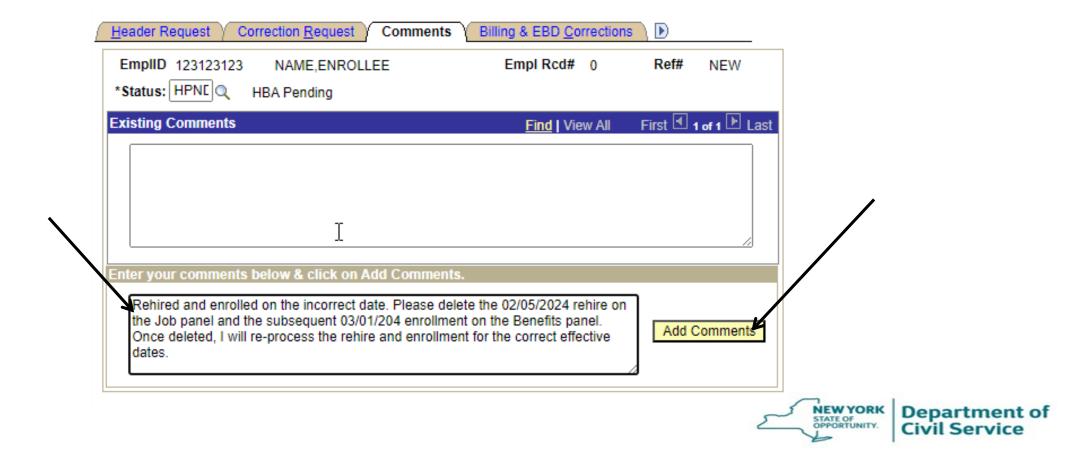
On the Correction Request Tab you may need to enter information on the Benefits and Job rows





#### **Comments Tab**

On the Comments Tab enter a comment to confirm your request. Type a comment and click Add Comments



#### **Comments Tab**

Your comment will save to the Existing Comments box

	Header Request / Correction Request / Comments	Billing & EBD Corrections	D
	EmplID 123123123 NAME,ENROLLEE	Empl Rcd# 0	Ref# NEW
	*Status: HPNE  HBA Pending		
3	Existing Comments	<u>Find</u>   View All F	irst 🕙 1 of 1 🕨 Last
	Rehired and enrolled on the incorrect date. Please delethe subsequent 03/01/204 enrollment on the Benefits pand enrollment for the correct effective dates OPPAU	anel. Once deleted, I will re-pro	cess the rehire
	Enter your comments below & click on Add Comments		
		//	Add Comments



## **Corrections Request Status**

After entering information on the Correction Request tab and Adding Comments to the Comments tab, click the magnifying glass to change the status of the correction request

Header Request Correction Request Comments	Billing & EBD Correction:	<b>D</b>
EmplID 123123123 NAME,ENROLLEE	Empl Rcd# 0	Ref# NEW
*Status: HPNI HBA Pending		
Existing Comments	Find   View All	First 1 of 1 Last
Rehired and enrolled on the incorrect date. Please delete the subsequent 03/01/204 enrollment on the Benefits par and enrollment for the correct effective dates OPPAUP	iel. Once deleted, I will re-	process the rehire
Enter your comments below & click on Add Comments.		
		Add Comments



## **Corrections Request Status**

#### Click EWRK for EBD Worklist

Look L	Jp Status
Field Valu	e: begins with 🕶
Look Up	Clear Cancel Basic Lookup
Search F	Results First 1-3 of 3 Last
Field Valu	e Translate Long Name
<u>EWRK</u>	EBD Worklist
<u>HCAN</u>	HBA Cancelled
<u>HPND</u>	HBA Pending



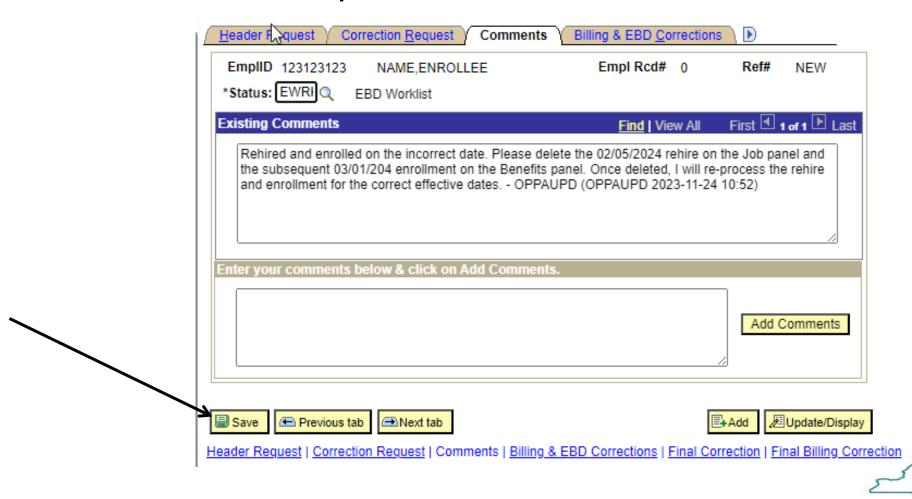
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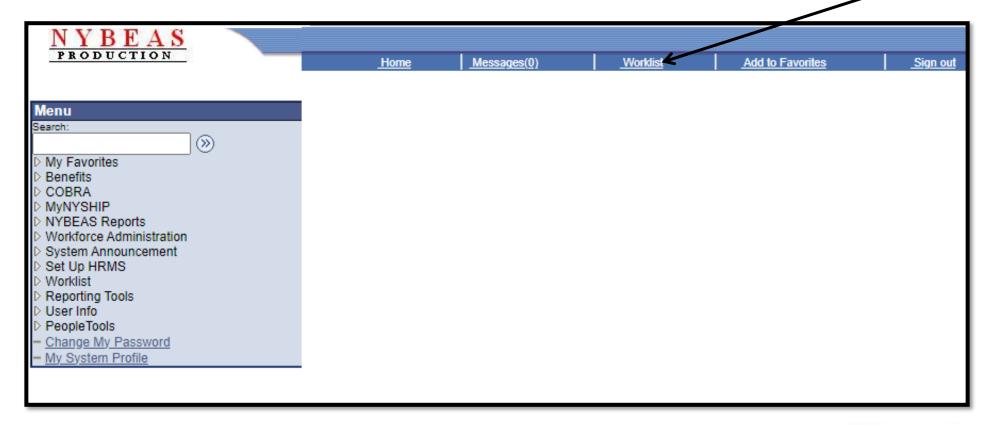
Department of Civil Service

## **Saving Corrections Request**

Save the Correction Request and it will be sent to EBD



Click Worklist from the upper right corner of NYBEAS





From your Worklist Summary click Detail to open your Corrections Requests Worklist





The returned correction will be in your *Worklist Details*. Click *Work It* to open the correction request

Vorklist Details	;			Customize   Find   1	/iew 100   🎹	First 1-15 of 2612	Last		
Mark Worked	<u>ID</u>	Empl Rcd#	<u>DeptID</u>	Name	Ref. Nbr.	Sent From	WL Created on	WL Comments	Reassign
1 🕢	/ork It	0	03977		222672	Tibbitts, Michael	06/22/2020 2:13:28PM		Reassign
2 🕢 <u>W</u>	/ork It	0	03613		222738	Tibbitts, Michael	06/22/2020 3:32:30PM		Reassign
3 💉 <u>W</u>	/ork It	0	03228		222691	Tibbitts, Michael	06/22/2020 3:33:54PM		Reassign
4 🕢 🕦	/ork It	0	03038		222850	Tibbitts, Michael	06/23/2020 2:26:19PM		Reassign
5 🕢 <u>W</u>	/ork It	0	03145		222857	Tibbitts, Michael	06/24/2020 1:07:20PM		Reassign
6 🕢 <u>W</u>	/ork It	0	03300		222901	Spring, Melissa	06/25/2020 9:25:52AM		Reassign
7 🕢 <u>W</u>	/ork It	0	03496		222853	Tibbitts, Michael	06/25/2020 12:54:27PM		Reassign
8 <b>~</b> <u>W</u>	/ork It	0	03613		222743	Tibbitts, Michael	06/25/2020 1:35:21PM		Reassign
9 🕢 <u>W</u>	/ork It	0	03989		222758	Tibbitts, Michael	06/25/2020 2:40:20PM		Reassign
10 <b>✓</b> <u>₩</u>	/ork It	0	03381		222932	Tibbitts, Michael	06/26/2020 12:13:32PM		Reassign
11 🕢 <u>W</u>	/ork It	0	03145		222904	Spring, Melissa	06/26/2020 3:39:06PM		Reassign
40 4 14	f==1- 14	^	00040		222005	Onder Mallera	00/20/2020 2:40:40014		



Review the status to determine if the request is *Complete* or *Invalid Return to HBA* 





## **Correction Requests**

- You must review the Comments Tab to view responses from EBD for further action required by you. Even if the status is Complete, you will likely need to take further action
- If EBD determines the correction cannot be processed the Status will be changed to *Invalid Return to HBA*
  - Call the Help Line for assistance
- The Comments Tab will inform if further processing is needed or of the reason why the correction request was marked Invalid



## **Corrections Requests Example**

This comment indicates that further processing is needed by the HBA. EBD Corrections Unit deleted information in NYBEAS. The HBA can now process for the correct date. If not done by the HBA, the processing will not be completed and larger issues may arise

Header Request / Co	rrecon Request Comment	s Billing & EBD Co	rrections	D	
EmplID 123123123	NAME,ENROLLEE	Empl Rcd#	0	Ref#	NEW
*Status:: COMI	Complete				
Existing Comments		Find   Vie	w All	First 1 2	of 2 🕨 Last
Rehire and enrollme (OPPAUPD 2023-11	ent have been deleted. HBA can I-24 11:10)	re-process for the corr	ect date.	- OPPAUF	O O
Enter your comments	below & click on Add Commer	ıts.			
				Add C	Comments



## **Correction Requests**

- Navigate to NYBEAS Update history to determine if NYBEAS was updated how you intended
- Remove the correction from your worklist by clicking Mark Worked

Worklist D	etails					Customize   Find   \	<u>/iew 100</u>   🛗	First 4 1-15 of 2612	Last		
Mark Work	ed	<u>ID</u>	Empl Rcd#	<u>DeptID</u>	<u>Name</u>		Ref. Nbr.	Sent From	WL Created on	WL Comments	Reassig
7/	Work It		0	03977			222672	Tibbitts, Michael	06/22/2020 2:13:28PM		Reassign
2 🎺	Work It		0	03613			222738	Tibbitts, Michael	06/22/2020 3:32:30PM		Reassign
3 🥓	Work It		0	03228			222691	Tibbitts, Michael	06/22/2020 3:33:54PM		Reassign
4 🎺	Work It		0	03038			222850	Tibbitts, Michael	06/23/2020 2:26:19PM		Reassign
5 🥓	Work It		0	03145			222857	Tibbitts, Michael	06/24/2020 1:07:20PM		Reassign
6 🛹	Work It		0	03300			222901	Spring, Melissa	06/25/2020 9:25:52AM		Reassign
7 🛷	Work It		0	03496			222853	Tibbitts, Michael	06/25/2020 12:54:27PM		Reassign



# Preferred Payment Changes



## **Preferred Payment Changes**

- To set a retiree up to have their NYSHIP premium contribution deducted from their pension, you will need to process a *Preferred* Payment Change (PPC) in NYBEAS
- Do NOT process a PPC until <u>at most 2 weeks prior to retirement or</u> the change will not go through and the record will remain in APAY
- Step by step transaction instructions for processing a PPC can be found in the PA Manual



## **Preferred Payment Changes**

- Before processing a PPC, use the Personal/Employment transaction in NYBEAS to enter the employees Retirement Registration Number, Retirement System, and Retirement Tier
- The Retirement Registration Number must be inserted accurately, or the change will not go through
  - If you are unsure of the number, confirm with the employee
- If a Retirement Number is inserted, the PPC will be blocked so make sure you leave that field blank



**December 18, 2023** 

## **Personal/Employment Transaction**

	Retirement Information							
	Retirement Reg.#: R123456789	Medicare Id:						
	Retirement System 1 Employee's Retirement System	Retirement						
	Retirement Type: REGULAR V	tirement Tier: Tier IV						
	Leave the <b>Retirement Number</b> field BLANK							



**December 18, 2023** 

## **Preferred Payment Changes**





## **Preferred Rate Qualifiers**

These are the rates of contribution from the employer. If the amount your agency contributes does not match any of the below, you cannot put your retiree into pension deduction; you must keep them in APAY

Code	Rate Qualifier		
0	100/100		
1	100/95		
2	100/90		
3	100/80		
4	100/75		
5	100/65		
6	100/50		
7	100/35		
8	95/95		
9	95/85		

Code	Rate Qualifier	
Α	90/90	
В	90/85	
С	90/75	
D	90/50	
F	85/85	
G	85/75	
Н	85/50	
I	75/75	
J	75/50	
K	75/35	

Code	Rate Qualifier		
L	65/46		
М	60/60		
N	50/50		
0	50/35		
Р	95/90		
Q	95/80		
R	90/80		
S	80/80		
U	83/83		
Y	85/80		

System	Maximum Deduction
ERS	\$999
TRS	\$2000



## **Preferred Payment Changes**

- The Preferred Payment Change should go through within the first 3 months following the retirement date
- If the change has not occurred, then you may have processed it too early or the Retirement information may be incorrect
- Confirm the retirement system and retirement registration number are correct and then reprocess the PPC



**December 18, 2023** 

## **Preferred Payment Changes**

- If the PPC still does not go through and you have already tried to reprocess it, you will need to manually update the retirement number in NYBEAS and then send EBD a request
- The Retirement Registration Number and Retirement Number will be the same number
  - For ERS this number will begin with an R
  - Example R123456789
- After updating the retirement number, process a Corrections Request specifying the Rate Qualifier in the Comment of your request
  - Example: Please change John Doe to EPEN. The rate qualifier should be 90/90.

## **Effective Dates**



### **Effective Dates**

- When you process an enrollment transaction in NYBEAS, the Timeliness of the Request Date, and the First Date of Eligibility or Qualifying Event (if applicable) must be used to determine the effective date of coverage
- When an enrollee requests coverage changes that either do not have a qualifying event or the request is made more than 30 days after an event, the enrollee will be subject to a late enrollment waiting period: the effective date will be the first day of the third month following the month in which the request was made



## Effective Dates – New Hire/Newly Eligible

New Hire / Newly Eligible Employee	Request Date	Effective Date
Without an Initial Waiting Period	No later than 30 Days after the First Date of Eligibility	First Day the Employee Actively Works a Benefits Eligible Position
	More than 30 Days after the First Date of Eligibility	First Day of the third month following the Request Date
With an Initial Waiting Period	During the <u>Initial Waiting Period</u>	The Day After the Completion of the Initial Waiting Period
	No later than 30 Days after the First Date of Eligibility	The Day After the Completion of the Initial Waiting Period
	More than 30 Days after the First Date of Eligibility	First Day of the third month following the Request Date



## Effective Dates – Enrollee Qualifying Event

Previously Eligible Employee	Request Date	Effective Date
Employee experienced a qualifying event to newly enroll in coverage	No later than 30 Days after the qualifying event	The Date of the <u>Qualifying</u> <u>Event</u>
Employee experienced a qualifying event to newly enroll in coverage	More than 30 Days after qualifying event	First Day of the third month following the Request Date
Employee did not experience a qualifying event to newly enroll in coverage	The signature date on the <u>PS-503</u>	First Day of the third month following the Request Date



## Effective Dates – Dependent Qualifying Event

There is a Qualifying Event to Add a Dependent	Request Date	Effective Date
Employee was previously eligible for/enrolled in NYSHIP coverage	No later than 30 Days after the qualifying event	The <u>Event Date</u>
Employee was previously eligible for/enrolled in NYSHIP coverage	More than 30 Days after the qualifying event	First Day of the third month following the Request Date

- This could be a newly eligible dependent, such as a newborn child or a new spouse, or a previously
  eligible dependent who experienced a qualifying event that allows them to enroll in coverage without a
  waiting period, such as a loss of other coverage.
- If the employee/retiree is already enrolled in coverage, the dependent can be added to coverage effective the date of the qualifying event. If the employee/retiree is not enrolled in coverage, they can enroll in coverage adding the dependent effective the date of the qualifying event.

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## Effective Dates – No Qualifying Event

Previously Eligible Enrollee/Dependent	Request Date	Effective Date
Enrollee/Dependent did not experience a Qualifying Event	The signature date on the <u>PS-503</u>	First Day of the third month following the Request Date

If an enrollee or a dependent was previously eligible for NYSHIP coverage and was not enrolled/added to coverage at the time they were first eligible and they have not experienced a qualifying event to newly enroll in coverage, then their coverage will be effective after a late enrollment waiting period, the first day of the third month following the request date.



### **Effective Dates - Newborn**

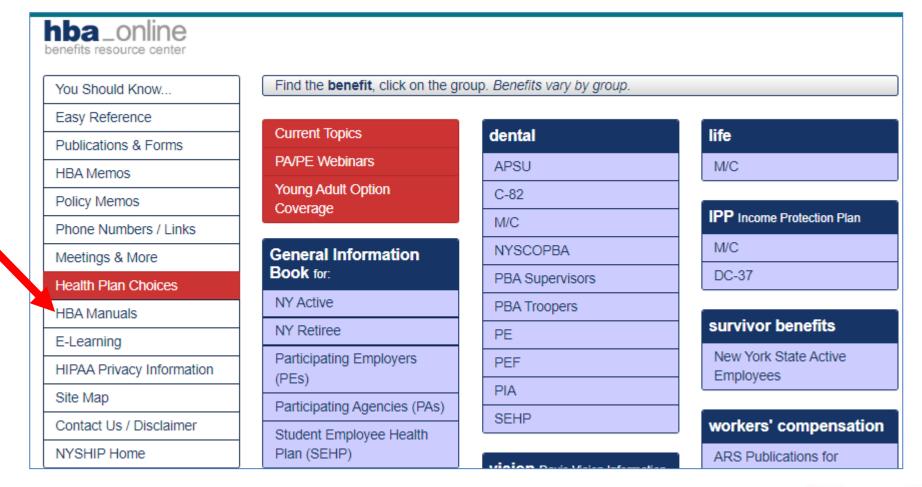
- A newborn child can be added without the social security number and/or birth certificate, however you must follow up to obtain this information once it is available
- If you receive a PS-503 requesting the addition of a newborn more than 30 days after the child's birthdate, forward the request to EBD for review and/or processing



# Participating Agency Manual

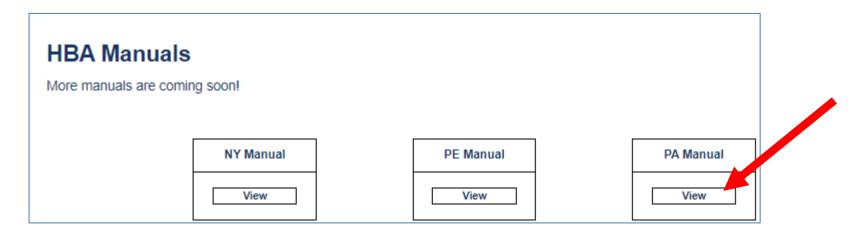


#### **PA Manual**





### **PA Manual**



PA Manual		
Events	Topics	Search
"Other" Child	Dependent Eligibility Requirements	Filter
Adopting a Child	Employee Eligibility Requirements	UPDATES
Continuing Coverage for a Disabled Child	Roles & Responsibilities	TRANSACTIONS  GLOSSARY
<b>~</b>	Student Dependent with Prior	CONTACT
Divorce ~	Military Service	
Domestic Partner	The Health Insurance Portability and	



## **PA Manual**

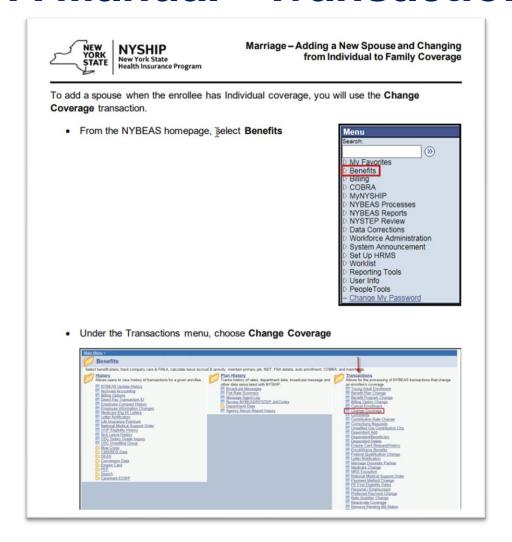
#### **Transactions**

Transaction Name	Action Code	Reason Code	Description	Sections
Add a Spouse Coverage - Change to Family	cco	MAR	If an enrollee has Individual coverage, click on the link for instructions on how to add their spouse by changing to Family coverage.	Marriage
Add a Spouse to Existing Coverage	DEP	ADD	If an enrollee has existing Family coverage, click on the link for instructions on how to add their spouse to coverage.	Marriage
Add Dependent Child - Change to Family Coverage	cco	DEP	If an enrollee requests to add a dependent child to coverage and change from Individual to Family Coverage	Adopting a Child
Add Dependent Child to Existing Family Coverage	DEP	ADD, NWB	If an enrollee requests to add a dependent child to existing Family Coverage	Adopting a Child
Add Domestic Partner - Change to Family Coverage	cco	ADP	If an enrollee has Individual coverage, click on the link for instructions on how to add their domestic partner by changing to Family coverage.	Domestic Partner
Add Domestic Partner to Existing Family Coverage	DEP	ADP	If an enrollee has existing Family coverage, click on the link for instructions on how to add their domestic partner to coverage.	Domestic Partner
Add Newborn - Change to Family	ссо	NWB	If an enrollee with Individual coverage who are adding their newborn.	Newborn Child

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## **PA Manual - Transaction**





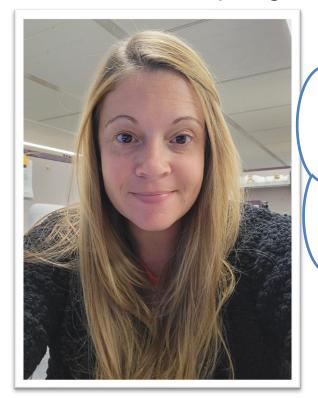
## Participating Agency & Participating Employer (PA/PE) Unit Staff

#### **Amanda Perkins**



Please have NYBEAS open and ready when you call the HBA Help Line.

#### Melissa Spring

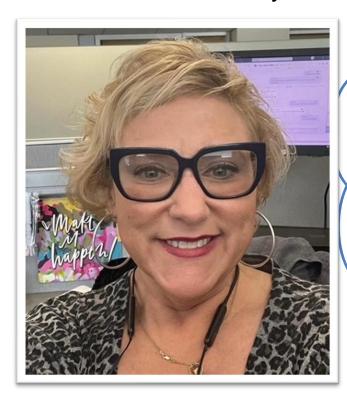


Please have your agency code and the employee's SSN ready when you call the HBA Help Line.



## Participating Agency & Participating Employer (PA/PE) Unit Staff

Elizabeth Varsany



Please to access the NEW HBA Manual. This is your toolbox for step-by-step NYBEAS transactions and much more!

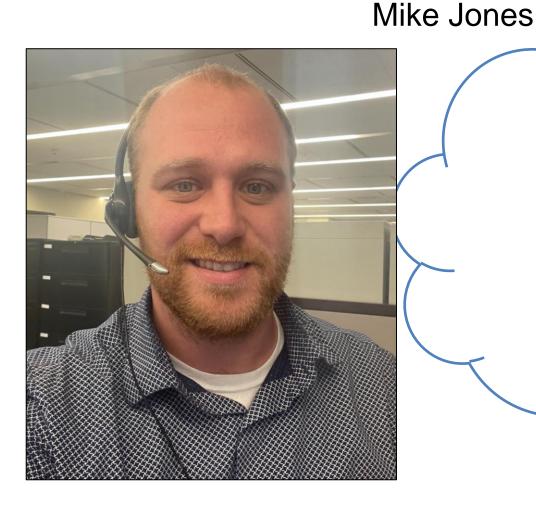
Michael Santiago



Please run your monthly reconciliation report on the Monday following the first Friday of each month to reconcile your bill.



## Participating Agency & Participating Employer (PA/PE) Unit Staff



Please make sure you update your DAO and HBA information with EBD when you have staff changes!

Department of





## Questions?





#### **PELU Announcements**

Presenter – Jesse Horton, Public Employer Liaison Unit



## **Topics**

- PELU Staff Introduction
- Policy Memo 150, Six months notice of change
- Policy Memo 127, Withdrawing Medicare Enrollees
- Timely processing
- Federal Premium Reporting
- Dual Family Prohibition & Buyout Programs
- When to Contact PELU



## Public Employer Liaison Unit (PELU) Staff



#### **Amy Orr**

Use your NYSHIP resources: many answers to your questions can be found in the General Information Book, the HBA Manual, and the NYSHIP Administrative Guide.



#### **August Heinrich**

Remember to include your agency code in the subject line when you e-mail us.



#### Susana Alvear

Be sure to regularly check HBA Memos for important announcements.



#### **Jesse Horton**

Make sure to keep your NYBEAS credentials secure.



- On October 17, 2023, the Employee Benefits Division (EBD) published Policy Memo 150
- The memo requires that incoming agencies submit their request to join NYSHIP at <u>least 6 months</u> in advance
- The memo also requires that existing agencies requesting to make changes to their NYSHIP participation provide EBD with <u>at least 6 months</u> notice prior to the effective date of the change



- Such changes to NYSHIP participation could include a change in benefit plans, for example switching form the Empire Plan to the Excelsior Plan or vice versa
- Changes could also include a change in contribution rate, change in eligible classes, change in minimum service time for retirement, etc.



- The 6-month minimum notice is necessary to coordinate changes in coverage among multiple EBD units and insurance carriers without causing disruptions to member enrollments
- In addition, the 6-month timeframe is necessary to ensure compliance with statutes requiring advance notice to enrollees of a change in benefit
- For examples, 90-days notice of change in coverage is required for prescription drugs plans
- Please review Policy Memo 150 for more information



 Agencies that participate in NYSHIP may not withdraw only their Medicare-eligible retirees from NYSHIP, in accordance with NYSHIP <u>Policy Memo 127</u>.



- Some agencies have begun offering non-NYSHIP Medicare
   Advantage Plans to their Medicare-primary enrollees. This is allowable
   only if Medicare-primary enrollees are given the choice to stay in
   NYSHIP.
- Enrollees and their covered dependents may not be enrolled in different plan options.



- Participating Agencies are not allowed to withdraw only their Medicare-eligible enrollees from NYSHIP because this practice is detrimental to the plan.
- As a reminder, the NYSHIP premium cost is significantly reduced for Medicare-primary members.
- Any Participating Agency or Participating Employer that wishes to remove Medicare-primary retirees from eligibility for NYSHIP must withdraw <u>all</u> of its retirees from NYSHIP.



- As reminder, it is extremely important that all changes to enrollment records are processed in NYBEAS in a timely manner
- Typically, changes should be processed within 7 days of the request or event
- Timely processing is required to ensure accurate billing and a smooth transition of benefits for enrollees
- Numerous problems can arise when transactions are not processed timely



- For example, when a retirement is not processed in time for a Medicare eligible enrollee, claims are incorrectly paid as planprimary
- When EBD is eventually notified the employee has been retired, claims must be reversed
- Medicare has a limit on how far back they will pay claims, and will refuse claims submitted outside this time frame



- Reversed claims can be costly to the enrollee and the plan, and increased plan costs mean increased premiums for all plan enrollees
- In addition, agencies may incur additional premium costs if there
  is a difference in premium amount and transactions are
  processed outside the 6-month refund window



- As another example, problems can arise when job transactions, such as terminations or leaves of absence are not keyed on time
- Employees and their dependents may continue to have access to the benefits well after their eligiblity has ended
- By the time the job record is corrected, claims may have already been paid and the costs cannot be recovered
- Once again, this can be costly to the plan, which is ultimately costly for plan enrollees and agencies



## **Mandatory Federal Premium Reporting**

- As a reminder, the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act requires that all health insurance plans annually report the average monthly premium paid by employees and employers
- Plans, including NYSHIP, must report 2023 premium to the federal government by mid-2024
- As has been done in past years, agency HBAs will be required to submit employee and employer premium information for their agencies using the dedicated NYBEAS page



## **Mandatory Federal Premium Reporting**

- Please monitor HBA Online for an official announcement
- We plan to release an HBA memo in early 2024 with deadlines and instructions for submitting your premium information
- Premium information will likely be due In March 2024
- This is a mandatory federal requirement



## **Optional Dual Family Prohibition**

- New York State prohibits dual family coverage for its employees through
  - Employees may not be enrolled in family coverage and as a dependent on another enrollee's NYSHIP policy
- This provision is included in the State's collective bargaining agreements with its public employee unions
- Participating Agencies may similarly prohibit their employees from being enrolled in dual family coverage to lower their overall health insurance costs



## **Optional Buyout Programs**

- New York State offers a health insurance buyout program to its employees
  - Employees can receive \$1,000 for opting out of individual coverage
  - Employees can receive \$3,000 for opting out of family coverage
- Participating Agencies may implement similar programs to lower their overall health insurance costs
- Policy Memo 122r1 outlines the Department's policy on buyout programs for health insurance coverage



#### When to Contact PELU

- Questions about NYSHIP policies
- Changes in NYSHIP benefits such as contribution rate changes, changes in service time requirements, or newly offering benefits to a class or category of employee/retiree
- Contact us at least 60 days in advance of the effective date of the change
- Please contact PELU by e-mail at <u>PELU@cs.ny.gov</u>







# Questions?





#### **Empire Plan Benefit Changes**

Presenter- Mindy Beyer, Contract Manager, Vendor Management Unit

New York State Department of Civil Service Employee Benefits Division

Prepared for use by the Department of Civil Service, Employee Benefits Division representatives only.



#### **Topics**

- What's New for January 1, 2024
- Benefit Updates and Reminders



**December 18, 2023** 

## **Empire Plan Benefit Changes**

#### What's New for January 1, 2024

#### **Expansion of Site of Care Program for Infusions:**

- This program will be expanded to include all drug infusion therapies except those used to treat cancer or hemophilia.
- Empire Plan primary members impacted by this change will receive a letter and assistance in coordinating the transition.
- There will be **no** copayments for the infusion when an alternate setting is used, which may include a freestanding infusion suite, a doctor's office, or your home.
- This list of therapies included for this program can be found at: <a href="https://www.empireblue.com/nys/resources-forms">https://www.empireblue.com/nys/resources-forms</a>

#### What's New for January 1, 2024

#### **Empire BlueCross Becoming Anthem Blue Cross:**

- Empire BlueCross, the administrator of The Empire Plan Hospital Program, will be changing its name to Anthem Blue Cross.
- This transition will not impact coverage or network access.
- For the latest information about this change and for information about Empire Plan hospital benefits, go to: <a href="www.empireblue.com/nys">www.empireblue.com/nys</a>
  - Using this link, plan members can set up an account to review benefits, view claims, submit inquiries and access LiveHealth Online.



#### What's New for January 1, 2024

#### **Assignment of Benefits for Medical/Surgical Providers:**

- Enrollees who obtain services from out-of-network providers may opt to have The Empire Plan pay covered expenses to providers directly.
- To choose this option, sign the "Assignment of Benefits" field to authorize payment to your provider when submitting your claim to UnitedHealthcare or when completing forms required by your provider.
- As a reminder, out-of-pocket costs will be much higher when using an out-of-network provider.



#### **Benefit Updates and Reminders**

#### **Preventive Care – RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus):**

- For adults ages 60 and older, the RSV vaccine is covered at no cost when provided by a vaccination network pharmacy or participating medical provider.
- For infants/children ages 0 through 19 months, RSV monoclonal antibodies are covered at no cost when administered by a participating medical provider.
   Please note this treatment is not available at retail pharmacies.
- For women between 32 to 36 weeks of pregnancy, the RSV vaccine is covered at no cost when administered by a participating medical provider. Per state regulation, vaccines for this group are not available at retail pharmacies.



#### **Benefit Updates and Reminders**

#### **Preventive Care – COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccines:**

- The flu vaccine and all COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are covered at no cost when provided by a vaccination network pharmacy or participating medical provider.
- The CDC (Centers for Disease Control) recommends the COVID-19 primary series vaccine for everyone age six months and older, and the COVID-19 boosters for individuals age five years or older.



#### **Benefit Updates and Reminders**

#### No Copayment for In-Network Opioid Treatments:

- Empire Plan members have no copayment when receiving services from a network MHSU (Mental Health and Substance Use) provider for opioid treatment that includes the prescribing of agonists, including methadone, Suboxone and buprenorphine. However, prescriptions obtained at a retail pharmacy are still subject to the applicable copayment.
- Also, there are no copayments for therapy and counseling sessions related to the same opioid treatment provided by a network MHSU provider.



#### **Benefit Updates and Reminders**

#### **UnitedHealthcare App:**

- Empire Plan members can use the UnitedHealthcare (UHC) app to:
  - Find participating providers, view medical claims, and check deductibles.
  - Choose paperless communications.
- Just scan the QR code to get registered.





#### **Benefit Updates and Reminders**

#### **Empire Plan Member Resources:**

- The Empire Plan NurseLine<sup>SM</sup> is available 24/7. Registered nurses can answer health-related questions and assist in finding a network provider.
- The Clinical Referral Line for the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Program is available 24/7. Licensed clinicians can help find a provider and schedule an appointment if necessary.
- CVS Caremark representatives are available 24/7 to answer questions about prescription drug benefits and assist in finding a network pharmacy.
- 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) is the number to call for the above services; this number is found on the back of the Empire Plan benefit ID card.



#### **Benefit Updates and Reminders**

#### **Empire Plan Member Resources:**

**LiveHealth Online** is a telehealth benefit that provides access to a board-certified doctor, psychiatrist, psychologist, and licensed therapist by telephone or a video visit on your smartphone, tablet or personal computer.

- \$0 copayment service is at no cost to Empire Plan members.
- To register or to schedule a visit, go to <u>www.empireblue.com/nys</u> or call 1-888-LiveHealth (1-888-548-3432).
- Representatives are available 24/7.



#### **Benefit Updates and Reminders**

#### **Empire Plan Member Resources:**

Talkspace provides online access to therapy with a licensed clinician.

- Members can text providers and set up video or telephone calls.
- Therapy is subject to a copay, similar to an in-person visit.
- To get started, you can go to <a href="https://www.talkspace.com/empireplan">https://www.talkspace.com/empireplan</a>



#### **Benefit Updates and Reminders**

#### **Empire Plan Member Resources:**

#### **Empire Plan Center of Excellence Programs - Overview:**

- Nationwide access to care from providers who are recognized as leaders.
- All Center of Excellence (COE) programs include paid-in-full benefits for services provided at the COE.
- All COE programs include a travel, lodging and meal expenses benefit for travel within the United States.
- Plan members must call and register for the applicable COE Program to access benefits.



#### **Benefit Updates and Reminders**

#### **Empire Plan Member Resources:**

#### **Empire Plan Center of Excellence Listing of Programs:**

- Cancer Services Medical/Surgical Program (UnitedHealthcare)
- Transplants Hospital Program (Empire BlueCross)
- Substance Use Disorder MHSU Program (Carelon)
- Infertility Benefits Medical/Surgical Program (UnitedHealthcare)



#### **Benefit Updates and Reminders**

#### **Empire Plan Member Resources:**

**Empire Plan Center of Excellence Programs - More Information:** 

 Use the link below to access a publication about Empire Plan COE benefits, including a list of COE locations:

https://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits/nyship/shared/publications/reporting-on/2023/reporting-on-centers-of-excellence-2023.pdf







# Questions?





#### **Financial Update**

Presenter - Katelyn Wilder Acting Director Office of Financial Administration

New York State Department of Civil Service Employee Benefits Division

Prepared for use by the Department of Civil Service, Employee Benefits Division representatives only.



#### 2024 Rate Renewal

- Empire Plan Net Premium increase: 12.0%
- Empire Plan Program Trends:
  - Hospital Program: 7.6%
  - Medical Program: 7.3%
  - Prescription Drug Program: 10.9%
  - Mental Health & Substance Use Program: 10.8%
- Rates Include 0% margin
- No Dividend Application







#### 2024 Participating Agencies Monthly Net Rates

#### **Empire PlanPrime**

Individual \$1,445.66

• Family \$3,367.09

#### **Empire Mediprime**

• Individual \$548.95

• Family–1 \$1,654.92

• Family–2 \$1,498.01

#### **Excelsior PlanPrime**

• Individual \$1,344.47

• Family \$3,131.42

#### **Excelsior Mediprime**

• Individual \$510.54

• Family–1 \$1,539.11

• Family–2 \$1,393.20







# Questions?



# Final Questions and Answers





## **End of Meeting**



