

# The presentation will start momentarily



# 2024 Annual Webinar for Participating Agencies

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

# Welcome to the 2024 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



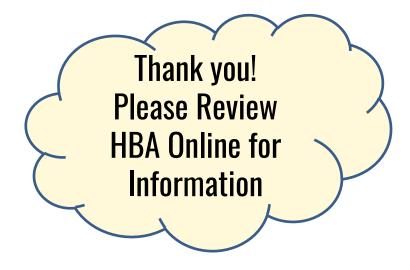
#### A Message from the Director of EBD

**Presenter – Daniel Yanulavich, Employee Benefits Division Director** 

# **Message from the Director**

#### **Daniel Yanulavich**

518-473-1977
Daniel.Yanulavich@cs.ny.gov



#### **Benefits Administration**

Presenter – Michael Jones, PA/PE Unit Supervisor

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

- HBA Help Line and Agency Permissions
  - EBD Phone and Fax
  - ITS (NYBEAS Password Resets)
  - HBA/DAO Access
- NYBEAS Transactions
  - Retirements
  - Terminations Vs. Cancel Enrollment
  - Preferred Payment Changes
  - Correction Requests
- Billing Reconciliation
  - Bills/Reconciliation Reports/Activity Listing
- HBA Online and HBA Manual
  - Step-by step instructions designed for HBAs

# HBA Help Line and Agency Permissions

#### **EBD Phone and Fax**

**HBA Help Line Phone: (**518) 474-2780

Press 1 for English, and then 2 for PA/PE HBA.

Representatives are available to answer questions Monday Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9AM -3PM and on Wednesdays from 9AM – 12 PM.

**HBA Help Line Fax:** (518) 485-5590

Send documents in with a cover letter that labels your name and agency code.

We cannot accept faxes that include information on multiple enrollees. Faxes should only include info for one enrollee at a time.

# ITS (NYBEAS Password Resets)

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

Phone: 844/891-1786

Email: fixit@its.ny.gov

The HBA Help Line cannot reset an HBA password

#### **HBA and DAO Access**

#### <u>Data Access Officers</u> (DAO) at your agency must:

- Access the Online Civil Service Permission Request System (OCSPR) on the Civil Service Website
- Add permissions for new HBAs
- Remove permissions for former HBAs
- Comment whether the HBA should be on the EBD contact list

You are allowed to have more than one DAO, but the DAO cannot also be the HBA.

A DAO can be added or removed by submitting an *EBD-545* Data Access Officer Request Form

#### **HBA and DAO Access**

Health Benefits Administrators (HBA) at your agency must:

- Access NYBEAS and HBA Online to make updates in a timely manner
- Contact the HBA Help Line when unable to update NYBEAS correctly
- Fax information to EBD when necessary

HBAs can only be added or removed by your agency DAO through OCSPR. Documents send to EBD will not be accepted.

An agency is allowed to have multiple HBAs.

More info on HBA roles/responsibilities and user permissions are outlined on HBA Online in :

- HBA memo PA20-22 Health Benefit Administrator Responsibilities
- HBA memo PA24-09 NYBEAS Access and HBA Online Access

# **NYBEAS Transactions**

An employee from a PA must meet <u>all four</u> of the following eligibility requirements to continue NYSHIP coverage in retirement. The employee must:

- 1. Be in a class or category of employee that is eligible for coverage in retirement
- 2. Have completed the agency's minimum service requirement
- 3. Satisfy requirements for retiring as a member of a retirement system
- 4. Be enrolled in coverage through an employer that participates in NYSHIP

1. The employee must be in a class or category of employee that is eligible for coverage in retirement.

A Participating Agency that offers to extend NYSHIP benefits into retirement may do so for all classes or categories of employees or only for certain classes or categories of employees. The employee must be employed in a position that is in an eligible class or category.

2. The employee must have completed the agency's minimum service requirement.

**NYSHIP Service Requirements** 

NYSHIP requires at least five years of benefits-eligible service. The service does not need to be continuous.

# 2. The employee must have completed the agency's minimum service requirement.

#### Agency Service Requirements

For employees hired on or after April 1, 1975, your agency may elect — administratively or through collective bargaining — to establish a service requirement greater than five years. This requirement may apply to all employees or to one or more classes or categories of employees.

The employee must have a minimum of one year of qualifying service with your agency to be eligible to continue NYSHIP coverage in retirement as your retiree.

#### 3. The employee must satisfy requirements for retiring as a member of a retirement system

The employee must be qualified for retirement as a member of a retirement system administered by New York State or any of New York State's political subdivisions.

If the employee is not a member of one of these retirement systems, they must meet the age requirement of the NYSLRS retirement tier in effect at the time they last entered service or be qualified to receive Social Security Disability Insurance benefits.

3. The employee must satisfy requirements for retiring as a member of a retirement system

To satisfy this eligibility requirement, an employee must be eligible for a pension but does not need to collect their pension.

4. Be enrolled in coverage through an employer that participates in NYSHIP.

This includes enrollment in:

- NYSHIP as an enrollee or dependent
- An alternative health benefit option provided by your agency
- A buyout program provided by your agency

When an enrollee meets all 4 requirements, you must process a RET/RET in NYBEAS Workforce Administration to confirm the member established eligibility to continue NYSHIP coverage as a retiree.

If they wish to cancel their enrollment upon separation, process a RET/RET and then a Cancel Enrollment.

If the enrollee is not collecting their pension or not "retiring" but is eligible to collect their pension upon separation from your agency, then you should still be processing a retirement if they meet all other requirements.

If they meet the 4 requirements, then they are entitled to continue their coverage as a NYSHIP retiree through your agency.

# **Disability Retirement**

Disability Retirements must be sent to EBD for processing.

When an employee's NYBEAS record needs to be updated due to a disability retirement you must fax all required documentation with a cover letter to EBD for review and processing.

The enrollee must provide a letter from their retirement system that confirms their approved start date of retirement benefits.

If the letter that the enrollee provides you with does not confirm the approved start date, then it will not be accepted by EBD.

# **Disability Retirement**

Fax the following information to EBD:

- A cover letter, identifying yourself and confirmation that the employee has met all requirements to continue NYSHIP coverage in retirement.
- A copy of a letter from the enrollee's retirement system that confirms the approved start date of retirement benefits.
- A completed and signed PS-503 Health Insurance Transaction Form.

There is more information on the <u>Disability Retirement and NYSHIP</u> page in the <u>PA Manual</u>.

# **NYBEAS Transactions –** Terminations Vs. Cancel Enrollment

Terminations should be processed when an employee separates service from your agency and does not meet the eligibility requirements to continue NYSHIP in retirement through your agency.

A TER/TER in NYBEAS Workforce Administration will terminate employment with your agency in NYBEAS and will also cancel their NYSHIP enrollment.

If you process a Cancel Enrollment, but not a termination, the individual will not be able to be rehired with another NYSHIP agency.

# **NYBEAS** Transactions – Preferred Payment

Before processing a Preferred Payment Change (PPC), use the **Personal/Employment transaction** in NYBEAS to enter the employees:

- Retirement Registration Number,
- Retirement System
- 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.

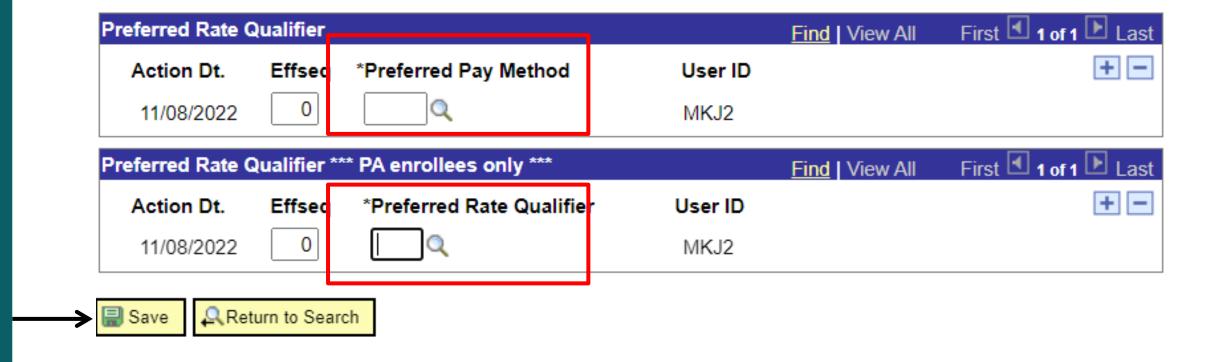
If a Retirement Number is inserted, the PPC will be blocked so make sure you leave that field blank when processing a Preferred Payment Change transaction.

# **Personal/Employment Transaction**

Retirement Information	
Retirement Reg.#: R12345678	Medicare Id:
Retirement System 1 VEn	ployee's Retirement System Retirement Number.
Retirement Type: REGULAR	

Leave the Retirement Number field blank!

# **Preferred Payment Changes**



Do NOT process a PPC until at most 2 weeks prior to retirement!

# **Preferred Rate Qualifiers**

These are the rates of contribution from the employer that you can choose in NYBEAS. If the amount your agency contributes does not match any of the below, you cannot put your retiree into pension deduction and 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	
A	90/90	
В	90/85	
C	90/75	
D	90/50	
F	85/85	
G	85/75	
Н	85/50	
	75/75	
J	75/50	
K	75/35	

Code	Rate Qualifier
L	65/46
M	60/60
N	50/50
0	50/35
P	95/90
Q	95/80
R	90/80
S	80/80
U	83/83
γ	85/80

System	Maximum Deduction	
ERS	\$999	
TRS	\$2000	

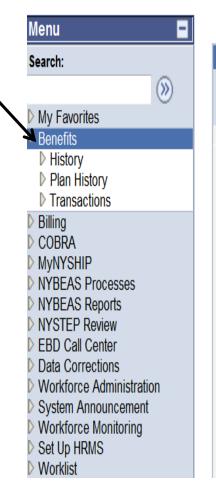
# **NYBEAS** Transactions - Correction Requests

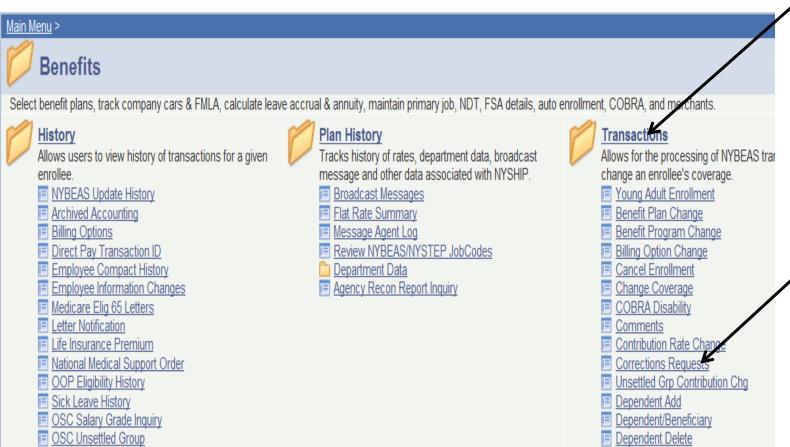
HBAs can submit Correction Requests in NYBEAS when an enrollee's record needs to be corrected or when their record needs an update that an HBA is unable to process.

The Corrections Requests transaction can be used to view existing correction request or add a new correction request.

HBAs must enter the complete details of their request in the Correction Request transaction so EBD can understand what is being requested and confirm that the update is compliant with NYSHIP rules.

# **Corrections Requests Transaction**



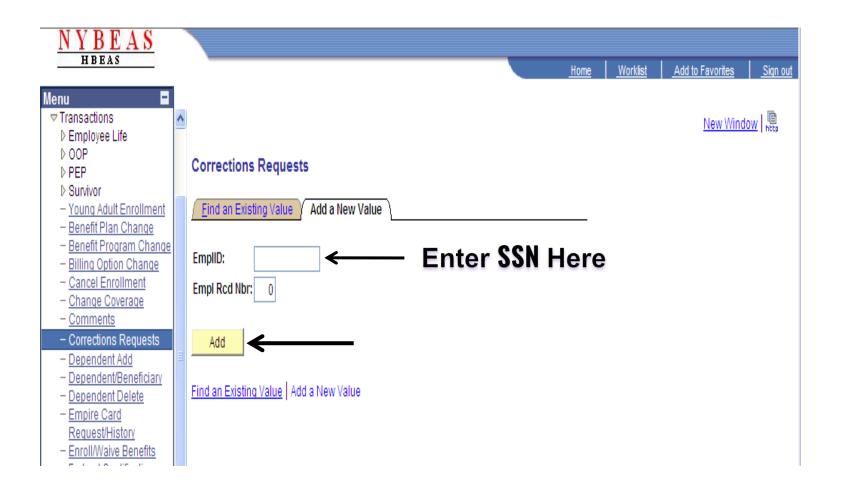


### **Corrections Requests Transaction**

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	Corrections Rec	quests n you have and click Search. Leave fields b	olank for a list of all val
- <u>Young Adult Enrollment</u> - <u>Benefit Plan Change</u> - <u>Benefit Program Change</u> - Billing Option Change	Find an Existing V	/alue Add a New Value	
- Cancel Enrollment - Change Coverage - Comments	EmplID: Empl Rcd Nbr:	begins with 🕶	]
Corrections Requests     Dependent Add	Last Name:	begins with v	<u></u>
<ul> <li>Dependent/Beneficiary</li> <li>Dependent Delete</li> <li>Empire Card</li> </ul>	Department:	begins with v	
Request/History - Enroll/Waive Benefits - Federal Qualification	Reference Number: Status:	begins with 🕶	<b>v</b>
Change - Letter Notification - Medicare Change	Action Date:	= 🔻	<b>9</b>
<ul> <li>Medicare Part D Change</li> <li>National Medical Support</li> <li>Order</li> </ul>		Basic Search Save Search Crite	<u>ria</u>
Payment Method Change     PE First Eligibility Dates	Find an Existing Valu	ie   <u>Add a New Value</u>	

# Corrections Requests - Add a New Value



# **NYBEAS** Transactions - Correction Requests

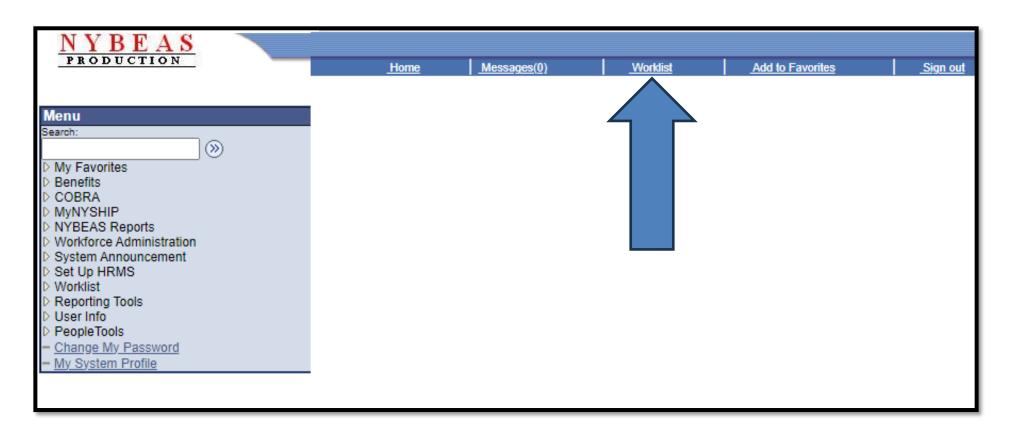
HBAs must follow up on Correction Requests that were submitted to confirm whether the requested update was processed or not.

After a correction request is reviewed and updated by staff at the Employee Benefits Division (EBD), the request will be sent back to your Corrections Worklist for review.

Further processing is often required by the HBA after a correction request has been completed by EBD.

## **Corrections Requests Worklist**

Click Worklist from the upper right corner of NYBEAS



# **Corrections Requests Worklist**

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



# **Correction Requests Worklist**

Click Work It to open the correction Request and review whether the status is Complete or Invalid and to review any comments from EBD.

Navigate to NYBEAS Update history to determine if NYBEAS was updated how you intended.

Remove the correction from your worklist by clicking *Mark Worked* 



# **Correction Requests Worklist**

If EBD determines the correction cannot be processed the Status will be changed to *Invalid Return to HBA*.

The Comments Tab will inform if further processing is needed or of the reason why the correction request was marked Invalid.

Call the Help Line for assistance if you are unsure why a correction was returned invalid or not completed as you intended.

# **Corrections Request Example**

This comment indicates that further processing is needed by the HBA. EBD Corrections Unit deleted information in NYBEAS. The HBA must now process the needed transaction for the correct date. If not done by the HBA, the processing will not be completed, and larger issues may arise. This is why you must follow up on your correction requests.



# **NYBEAS** Transactions – Correction Requests

There are more instructions on submitting Correction Requests in the 2023 Annual NYSHIP Participating Agency Webinars which can be found on <u>HBA Online</u> or in <u>HBA Memo PA24-01 2023 Annual NYSHIP</u> Participating Agency Webinars – Video, PowerPoint, and Q&A



## **NYBEAS Transactions**

There are more instructions on how to properly view NYBEAS Update History and how to process other transactions in the PA NYBEAS Training on HBA Online E-Learning.

#### **HBA** Webinars

2024 Option Transfer Period Webinar for NYS HBAs Recorded November 30, 2023 (1 hour 33 minutes)

2023 Special Option Transfer Period Webinar for NYS HBAs Recorded April 19, 2023 (55 minutes)

2023 Option Transfer Period Webinar for NYS HBAs Recorded November 22, 2022 (1 hour 52 minutes)

Retroactive Sick Leave Adjustment Training - Conducted August 19, 2021 (45 minutes)

NYBEAS Training for NYSHIP Participating Agency HBAs - Conducted via live WebEx on May 19, 2021 (1 hour 49 minutes).

NYS HBA Training Part 1 - Conducted via live WebEx on May 21, 2019 (1 hour 8 minutes)

NYS HBA Training Part 2 - Conducted via live WebEx on May 22, 2019 (1 hour 4 minutes)

Processing NYSHIP PE Retirees in NYBEAS - Updated July 2021 (33 minutes)

Civil Service Institute - NYS HBA Training - Held at the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) on July 25, 2018 (43:24)

The Department of Civil Service sends out monthly billing statement by e-mail.

Transaction listings are no longer sent out with the monthly billing statements, but activity listings can be run in NYBEAS.

HBAs must run monthly reconciliation reports and activity listing reports in NYBEAS.

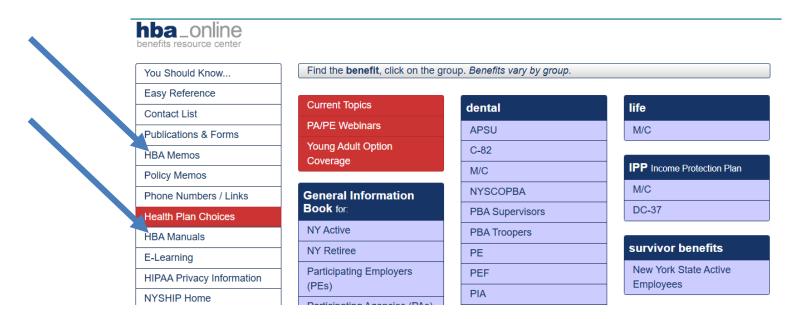
These reports assist Health Benefit Administrators maintain accurate, up-to-date health insurance enrollment records for their agency.

The reports should be run Monday morning following the first Friday of the month.

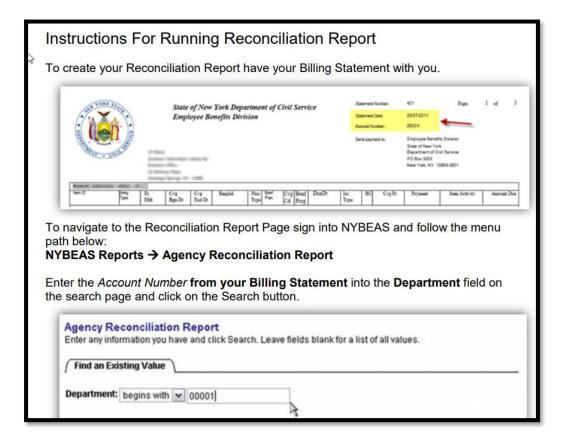
If any transactions occur in NYBEAS after billing runs, but before you run your reconciliation report, the information on your billing statement may not line up with the information on your recon report.

When this occurs, your activity listing can help you determine which changes may have occurred in NYBEAS to cause any discrepancies between your billing statement and recon report.

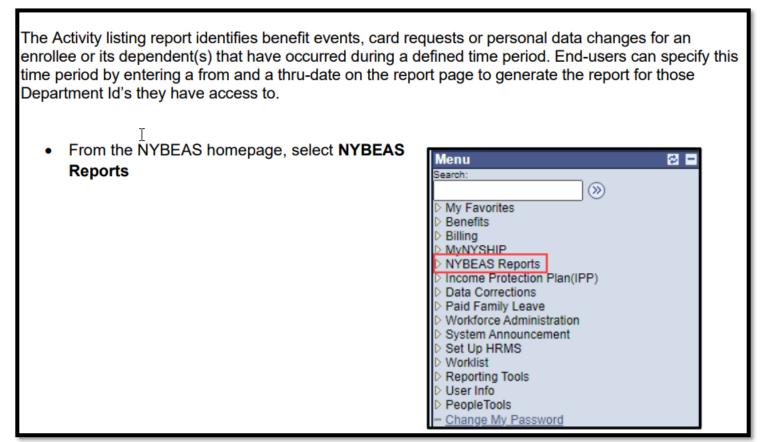
Detailed instructions on running the reports as well as directions on how to reconcile the listing with monthly billing statements can be found in HBA memos and the PA Manual on HBA Online.



Instructions for running a Reconciliation Report can be found in HBA Memo PA11-08 Reconciliation Listing.



Instructions for running an Activity Listing Report can be found in HBA PA23-19 Activity Listing Report.



For a guide on reconciling your NYSHIP bill, refer to the PowerPoint found in the PA Manual.

HBA Online > HBA Manual > PA Manual > Cost of Coverage > Reconciling your NYSHIP Bill

#### Reconciling your NYSHIP Bill

If the information on your NYSHIP Bill does not reflect your enrollment records, you will need to reconcile the differences between the two. For a guide on reconciling your NYSHIP bill, P Click here.

You may also use the PNYBEAS Code Description Guide to assist you.

If you have reviewed the guide and still cannot resolve your discrepancy, you may contact the HBA Help Line for assistance.

HBA Online is a resource center for HBAs. You should always research questions here before contacting the HBA Help Line.

HBA Online Link: <a href="https://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits/hba/">https://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits/hba/</a>

#### NYSHIP Eligibility Rules/Waiting Periods/Effective Dates

PA Manual
 NYSHIP General Information Book for PAs

#### NYSHIP Enrollee and Dependent Proofs

• PA Manual • Policy Memos • HBA Memos • NYSHIP General Information Book for PAs

HBA Online is a resource center for HBAs. You should always research questions here before contacting the HBA Help Line.

HBA Online Link: <a href="https://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits/hba/">https://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits/hba/</a>

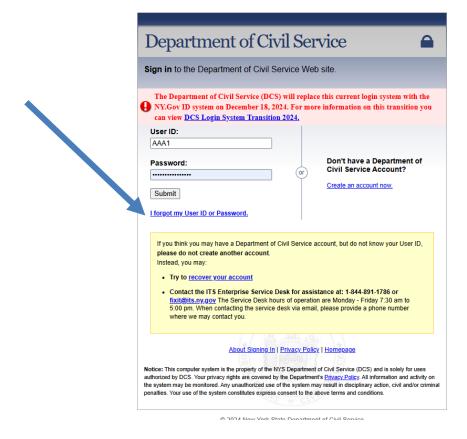
#### **NYBEAS Processing Instructions**

PA Manual
 E-learning page of HBA Online

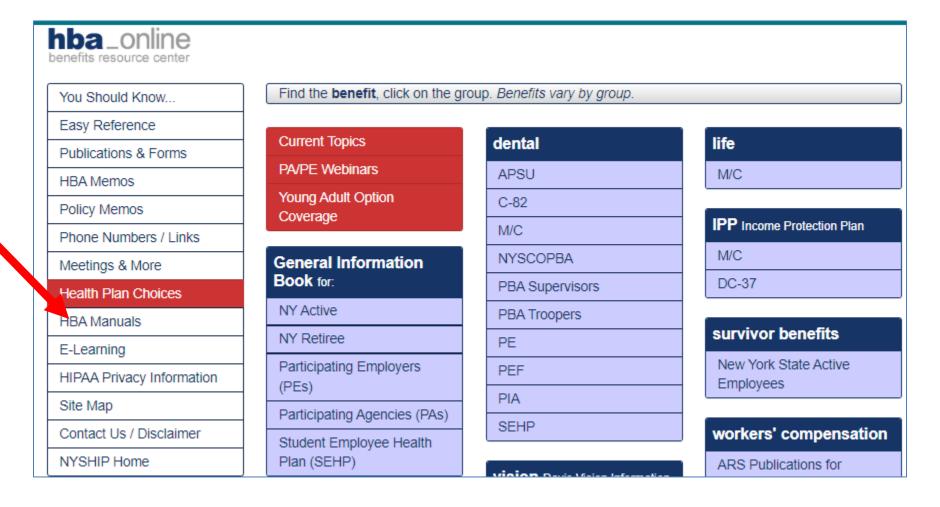
#### More HBA Online Resources

- Policy Memos
   NYSHIP Online Publications
   System Announcements
- HBA Online You Should Know
   HBA Online Easy Reference
   Notices
- Empire Plan contacts

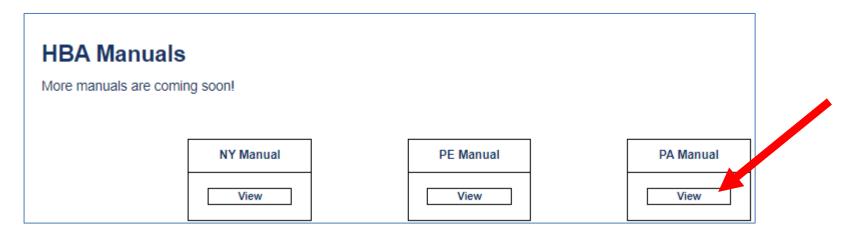
If you are unsure of your User ID or Password for HBA Online, click "I forgot my User ID or Password"



## PA Manual



## **PA Manual**



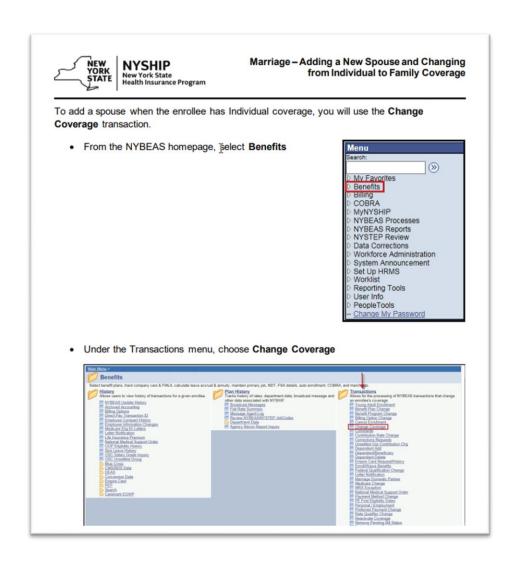


# **PA Manual**

#### **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	ссо	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

# **PA Manual - Transaction**



This manual has been developed to provide PA HBAs with step-by-step guidance on the rules and regulations of NYSHIP, processing of transactions in New York Benefits Eligibility and Accounting System (NYBEAS), and the HBA's responsibilities.

**HBA Manual Demonstration Video** 

### Recent HBA Memos

- PA24-14 2025 Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC)
- PA24-12 Revised Forms PS-425 and PS-425.3 for Domestic Partner Enrollment
- PA24-10 2024 Mandated Notices: Creditable Coverage and **CHIP**
- PA24-09 NYBEAS Access and HBA Online Access
- PA24-07 Donate Life Registry Election Added to NYSHIP Health Insurance Transaction Form (PS-503)

# **HBA Help Line Staff**

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

#### **Amanda Perkins**



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

#### Elizabeth Varsany



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

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

#### **Edward DerGurahian**



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

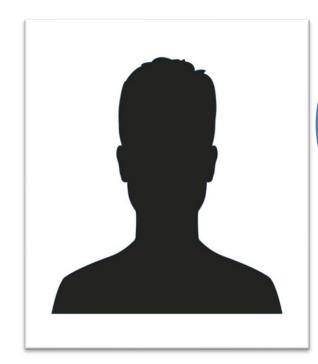
#### Michael Santiago



When submitting a corrections request, please be sure to complete the **'Corrections** Request' and 'Comments' tabs.

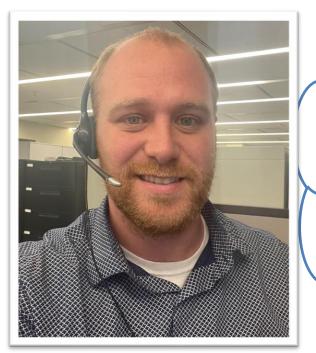
# Participating Agency & Participating Employer (PA/PE) Unit Staff

#### **Brendan Paulsen**



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

#### **Michael Jones**



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



# Questions?

#### **PELU Announcements**

Presenter – Jesse Horton, Public Employer Liaison Unit

# **Topics**

- PELU Staff Introduction
- Excelsior Plan Discontinuation
- 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.

# **Excelsior Plan Discontinuation**

- Effective January 1, 2025, the Excelsior Plan option will be discontinued for all NYSHIP Participating Agencies
- Agencies who currently offer the Excelsior Plan were notified of its discontinuation in early 2024
- All such agencies have elected to either move their Excelsior enrollees to the Empire Plan or withdraw them from NYSHIP
- All changes to current Excelsior agencies have been processed in NYBEAS effective Jan. 1
- Going forward, no requests to enroll in the Excelsior Plan will be accepted

# **Policy Memo 127**

 As a reminder, agencies that participate in NYSHIP may not withdraw only their Medicare-eligible retirees from NYSHIP, in accordance with NYSHIP Policy Memo 127.

# **Policy Memo 127**

- Some agencies have been offering non-NYSHIP Medicare Advantage Plans to their Medicare-primary enrollees. This is allowable <u>only</u> 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 from one another.

# **Policy Memo 127**

- 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 Medicareprimary 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

# **Timely Processing**

- 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

## **Timely Processing**

- For example, when a retirement is not processed in time for a Medicare eligible enrollee, claims are incorrectly paid as plan-primary
- 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

## **Timely Processing**

- 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

## **Timely Processing**

- 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 eligibility 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**

- 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 2024 premium to the federal government by mid-2025
- 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 2025 with deadlines and instructions for submitting your premium information
- Premium information will likely be due In March 2025
- 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 6 months prior to the effective date of the change
- Please contact PELU by e-mail at <a href="PELU@cs.ny.gov">PELU@cs.ny.gov</a>



# Questions?

Presenter- Erik Anderson, 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, 2025
- **Benefit Updates and Reminders**

## What's New for January 1, 2025

#### New Benefit ID Cards:

- Enrollees are in the process of receiving new Empire Plan Benefit ID cards to reflect the lower, negotiated In-Network Maximum Out-of-Pocket Limits (shown on next slide).
- Groups not ratified at this time also are in the process of receiving new benefit cards with the updated In-Network Maximum Out-of-Pocket Limits per federal guidelines.
- Empire Plan members can use these cards immediately; they do not have to make any phone calls or register their benefit ID card.

## What's New for January 1, 2025

#### **Maximum Out-of-Pocket Limits:**

2025 MOOP			
Coverage Type	Hospital/Medical/MHSU	Drug	Total
Individual	\$2,670	\$1,450	\$4,120
Family	\$5,350	\$2,890	\$8,240

## **Prescription Drug Benefit Updates**

#### **\$0** Copay on Insulin, Effective January 1, 2025:

- Covered prescription insulin will be available at no copay.
- This change was part of the Enacted Budget.

#### **\$0** Copay and No Prior Authorization on Medications Used for the Prevention of HIV (PrEP and PEP), Effective December 1, 2024:

- Medications used for the prevention of HIV will be available at no cost and without the need for prior authorization.
- These changes were enacted in CH. 152, Laws of 2024 (No PA) and Ch. 180, Laws of 2024 (No Copay)

## **Prescription Drug Benefit Updates**

#### **mPox Vaccine**

- For adults ages 18 and older, the mPox (formerly "Monkeypox") vaccine is covered at no cost when provided by a vaccination network pharmacy or participating medical provider.
- Find a pharmacy that is included in the vaccine network by going to www.empireplanrxprogram.com. Select CVS Caremark and scroll down to the link for Find a Local Pharmacy. Under the Advanced Options menu, select Vaccine network.

## **Prescription Drug Coverage**

#### **GLP-1s for Diabetes and GLP-1s for Weight-Loss**

- The Empire Plan covers GLP-1s for diabetes (e.g., Ozempic, Mounjaro, Trulicity) and GLP-1s for weight-loss (e.g., Wegovy, Zepbound).
- GLP-1s are subject to Prior Authorization (PA) to ensure the products are used safely and effectively.
  - PAs on the GLP-1s for diabetes look for a diagnosis code of diabetes or that the member uses other diabetes treatment products
  - PAs on the GLP-1s for weight loss look for BMI requirements and individual participation in weight management programs, reduced calorie diet and increased physical activity.

## **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.anthembluecross.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:**

- **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.



# Questions?

#### **Financial Update**

**Presenter - Katelyn Wilder Director** Office of Financial Administration

**New York State Department of Civil Service Employee Benefits Division** 

#### 2025 Rate Renewal

- •Empire Plan Net Premium increase: 0.8%
- Empire Plan Program Trends:
  - •Hospital Program: 5.4%
  - •Medical Program: 4.5%
  - •Prescription Drug Program: 11.6%
  - •Mental Health & Substance Use Program: 6.4%
- No Dividend Application

## **2025 Participating Agencies Monthly Net Rates**

## **Empire PlanPrime**

- •Individual \$1,479.53
- •Family \$3,367.80
- **Empire Mediprime**
- **•Individual** \$551.85
- •Family\_1 \$1,820.56
- •Family–2 \$1,511.55



## Questions?

# Final Questions and Answers



## **End of Meeting**

