

NYSHIP

HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS

REPORT

JUNE 2006

NEW YORK STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (NYSHIP)
FOR JUDGES, JUSTICES AND NONJUDICIAL EMPLOYEES
OF THE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM of the State of New York
And for their enrolled Dependents
and for COBRA Enrollees with their NYSHIP Benefits

Annual Notice of Mastectomy and Reconstructive Surgery Benefits

By law, insurers must:

- Cover inpatient hospital care for lymph node dissection, lumpectomy and mastectomy for treatment of breast cancer for as long as the physician and patient determine hospitalization is medically necessary
- Cover breast reconstruction following mastectomy, including surgery of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance
- Cover treatment for complications of mastectomy, including lymphedemas
- Cover prostheses related to breast reconstruction
- Notify enrollees of this coverage through plan documents

Contact your HMO if you have questions about these benefits.

NYSHIP News and Reminders

Changing Options

You may now change your NYSHIP health insurance plan outside the Option Transfer Period when you add a new dependent to your coverage. You may change from an HMO to The Empire Plan, or from The Empire Plan to an HMO, or from one HMO to another HMO in your area. (Please note: The HMO must be accepting enrollments.) Your *NYSHIP General Information Book* explains other circumstances that allow a change outside the Option Transfer Period. To change options, see your agency Health Benefits Administrator.

Domestic Partner Eligibility

Effective July 1, 2006, for Employees of the Unified Court System of the State of New York represented by NYS Supreme Court Officers Association (NU SY): To enroll a domestic partner, you must be able to provide proof that you have lived together and been financially interdependent for at least six months. Also effective July 1, 2006, for Employees of the Unified Court System of the State of New York represented by NYS Supreme Court Officers Association (NU SY): There is a one-year waiting period from the termination date of previous partner coverage before you may again enroll a domestic partner. Other eligibility requirements apply. Please see your *NYSHIP General Information Book* for details.

This domestic partner eligibility change was effective January 1, 2005 for Judges, Justices and Nonjudicial Employees of the Unified Court System (except NYS Supreme Court Officers Association (NU SY)).

Pre-Retirement Seminars

The Governor's Office of Employee Relations (GOER) in partnership with the Office of the State Comptroller presents Pre-Retirement Seminars. As part of the seminars, a representative from the Employee Benefits Division will explain the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) and your choices before you leave the payroll.

Call your personnel office to learn if there is a seminar available in your area and to reserve your place. Be sure to bring your personal confirmation letter from GOER when you attend. The New York State Department of Civil Service web site, www.cs.state.ny.us also has the seminar schedule in the Employee Benefits section under the Employees tab.

Since demand is greater than available seating at the seminars, you can also access helpful online pre-retirement resources at www.goer.state.ny.us/train/onlinelearning/pr/intro.html or www.osc.state.ny.us/retire.

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ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

Information for the Enrollee, Enrolled Spouse/
Domestic Partner and Other Enrolled Dependents

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It is the policy of the State of New York Department of Civil Service to provide reasonable accommodation to ensure effective communication of information in benefits publications to individuals with disabilities. These publications are also available on the Department of Civil Service web site (www.cs.state.ny.us). Check the Employee Benefits section under the Employees tab for timely information that meets universal accessibility standards adopted by New York State for NYS agency web sites. If you need an auxiliary aid or service to make benefits information available to you, please contact your agency Health Benefits Administrator. COBRA Enrollees: Contact the Employee Benefits Division at 518-457-5754 (Albany area) or 1-800-833-4344 (U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands).

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NYSHIP News and Reminders, continued from front page

Planning for Retirement Video

The Department of Civil Service has prepared a video on Planning for Retirement that answers many frequently asked questions about eligibility, paying for health insurance in retirement, sick leave credit, dependent survivor coverage, Medicare, other benefits and staying in touch after you retire. Your agency Health Benefits Administrator has VHS and DVD copies of the video for those who are planning to retire. Contact your agency Health Benefits Administrator to borrow a copy of the video in the format that you need and for other helpful information.

Information in Another Language

The New York State Health Insurance Program offers Language Line Services (LLS), an over-the-phone language translation service for NYSHIP enrollees.

If you understand another language better than English and would like answers to your health insurance questions in another language, you may contact your agency Health Benefits Administrator (HBA) who will arrange for you to use LLS through the Employee Benefits Division (EBD). You may call your HBA on your own or ask an authorized representative acting on your behalf to call for you.

A three-way conference call allows the interpreter to translate for you and for the EBD representative.

LLS interpreters are trained in over-the-phone translation skills. They give accurate, objective translations. All calls are strictly confidential.