

# EMPIRE

P L REPORT A N

AUGUST 2005

NEW YORK STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (NYSHIP)  
FOR NEW YORK STATE POLICE SUPERVISORS AND TROOPERS  
REPRESENTED BY PBA

And for their enrolled Dependents  
and for COBRA Enrollees with their Empire Plan Benefits

## The Empire Plan Benefit Change Highlights

### Network and Non-network Hospitals

Effective September 1, 2005

The Empire Plan Hospital Benefits Program has two levels of benefits – network and non-network. Network benefits apply when you use hospitals, hospices and skilled nursing facilities that participate in the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association’s network. See page 2 for details.

### Prescription Drug Program – Three Levels, New Copayments

Effective September 1, 2005

Your prescription drug benefit is based on whether a drug is generic, preferred brand-name or non-preferred brand-name. Copayments are based on the drug, the days’ supply and whether the prescription is filled at a retail pharmacy or the mail service pharmacy. See page 6 for prescription drug copayments.

### Basic Medical Provider Discount Program

Available September 1, 2005

Under The Empire Plan Basic Medical Provider Discount Program, you receive discounts for care from certain physicians and other providers who are part of MultiPlan, a nationwide organization contracted with United HealthCare. See page 5 for details.

### Centers of Excellence for Cancer Program

Available July 1, 2005

The Empire Plan now offers a Centers of Excellence for Cancer Program. The Program includes paid-in-full coverage for cancer-related expenses received through a nationwide network known as Cancer Resource Services. See page 5 for details.

## The Empire Plan Copayment Changes Effective September 1, 2005

### Benefits

### Copayment

#### Hospital Benefits Program

Outpatient Services in Network Hospital	\$35
Emergency Room	\$50
Physical Therapy in Network Hospital Outpatient Department	\$15

#### Participating Provider Program

Office Visit/Office Surgery/Radiology/Diagnostic Laboratory Tests	\$15
Managed Physical Network Program Services by MPN Providers	\$15

#### Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program

Structured Outpatient Rehabilitation Program by ValueOptions Network Providers	\$15
Hospital Emergency Room	\$50

#### Prescription Drug Program

See page 6 for prescription drug copayments.



Read this Report for important information about benefit changes.

SAVE THIS REPORT

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SPECIAL SECTION

# Network and Non-network Hospitals

Effective September 1, 2005

*The following applies to enrollees who have primary coverage through The Empire Plan.*

Beginning September 1, 2005, The Empire Plan Hospital Benefits Program has two levels of benefits – network and non-network.

## Network Benefits

Network benefits apply when you use hospitals, hospices and skilled nursing facilities that participate in the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association's network. This is currently the largest hospital network available in the United States. Over 90 percent of hospitals nationwide and every acute care general hospital in New York State are now network hospitals.

Remember to call The Empire Plan toll free at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and choose Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield before a maternity or scheduled hospital admission, within 48 hours after an emergency or urgent hospital admission or for admission or transfer to a skilled nursing facility. When you call, customer service representatives will direct you to a network facility.

You continue to receive paid-in-full benefits for inpatient hospital, hospice or skilled nursing facility care at a network facility. And, when you use a network hospital, services provided by an anesthesiologist, radiologist or pathologist that are related to your hospital service but billed separately are paid in full under The Empire Plan Medical/Surgical Benefits Program. Please see page 3. Outpatient hospital services from a network hospital are subject to applicable copayment(s).

A list of Empire Plan network hospitals, hospices and skilled nursing facilities is available on the New York State Department of Civil Service web site at [www.cs.state.ny.us](http://www.cs.state.ny.us). Click on Employee Benefits, then on Empire Plan Providers, Pharmacies and Services. You can also call The Empire Plan toll free at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and choose Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield.

## Non-network Benefits

If you, your enrolled spouse/domestic partner or your dependent child chooses to use a non-network hospital, hospice or skilled nursing facility for non-emergency inpatient care, The Empire Plan reimburses you directly for 90 percent of the charges. You pay the remaining 10 percent of the charges until you have reached a coinsurance maximum of \$1,500. You, your enrolled spouse/domestic partner and all your dependent children combined each have an annual coinsurance maximum (see below). You are responsible for full payment to the facility. For outpatient care, you pay 10 percent or \$75, whichever is greater, up to the annual coinsurance maximum.

The annual coinsurance maximum (out-of-pocket costs) for services at a non-network facility for either inpatient or outpatient care is \$1,500 for the enrollee, \$1,500 for an enrolled spouse/domestic partner, and \$1,500 for all dependent children combined. Once your out-of-pocket expenses go over \$1,500 for non-network inpatient and outpatient care combined, you will receive the network level of benefits.

## Reimbursement of Coinsurance Maximum through United HealthCare

After you have paid \$500 out-of-pocket for yourself, \$500 for your enrolled spouse/domestic partner or \$500 for all enrolled dependent children, you may file a claim with United HealthCare for reimbursement of the next \$1,000 in coinsurance. Send a copy of your Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield Explanation of Benefits showing you have paid \$500 out-of-pocket costs along with the completed claim form to United HealthCare, P.O. Box 1600, Kingston, New York 12402-1600.

## Network Benefits at a Non-network Facility

If you receive medically necessary covered services at a non-network facility when a network facility is available, The Empire Plan provides non-network coverage. However, the Plan will approve network coverage level under the following circumstances:

- When no network facility can provide the medically necessary services needed.
- When no network facility is available within 30 miles of your residence.
- When an inpatient admission or outpatient services are certified by Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield as emergency or urgent care.

Emergency or urgent care delivered at a non-network facility is not subject to the annual coinsurance. Payment for medically necessary covered emergency or urgent services received in a non-network hospital is made directly to you. You pay the emergency room copayment.

The *Empire Plan Report* is published by the Employee Benefits Division of the State of New York Department of Civil Service. The Employee Benefits Division administers the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP). NYSHIP provides your health insurance benefits through The Empire Plan.



State of New York  
Department of Civil Service  
Employee Benefits Division  
The State Campus  
Albany, New York 12239  
518-457-5754 (Albany area)  
1-800-833-4344  
(U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands)  
[www.cs.state.ny.us](http://www.cs.state.ny.us)

# The Empire Plan

## Benefit Changes Effective September 1, 2005

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### **The Empire Plan Hospital Benefits Program**

#### **\$50 Copayment for Emergency Care**

Beginning September 1, 2005, your copayment for emergency care in a hospital emergency room is \$50. The \$50 copayment covers use of the facility for emergency care and services of the attending emergency room physician and providers who administer or interpret radiological exams, laboratory tests, electrocardiogram and pathology services.

You will not have to pay the \$50 copayment if you are treated in the emergency room and then admitted at that time as an inpatient.

#### **\$35 Copayment Per Outpatient Visit**

Beginning September 1, 2005, your copayment for outpatient services in a network hospital or hospital extension clinic is \$35 for each visit where you receive one or more of the following services: surgery, diagnostic radiology, diagnostic laboratory tests, administration of Desferal for Cooley's Anemia.

You will not have to pay this \$35 facility copayment if you are treated in the outpatient department of the hospital and then admitted at that time as an inpatient.

There continues to be no copayment for the following outpatient services in a network hospital: chemotherapy, radiation therapy, dialysis, pre-admission testing/pre-surgical testing before admission as an inpatient.

#### **\$15 Copayment for Physical Therapy**

Beginning September 1, 2005, your copayment is \$15 for each visit to the outpatient department of a network hospital or hospital extension clinic for physical therapy when covered under the Hospital Benefits Program. Please see your *Empire Plan Certificate* for more information.

### **Hospital Extension Clinics**

Effective September 1, 2005, The Empire Plan covers charges, including facility charges, for certain hospital services provided in a remote location of a network hospital. This coverage applies to network hospital owned and operated on-site facilities and facilities not physically located in the hospital building, including ambulatory surgical centers. The hospital must bill for the service as part of the hospital's charges.

Your copayment for emergency care in a hospital extension clinic is \$50. Your copayment for outpatient services in a network hospital extension clinic is \$35. You will not have to pay the emergency care or outpatient services copayment if you are treated in the extension clinic and it becomes necessary for the hospital to admit you, at that time, as an inpatient. Please see this page and your *Empire Plan Certificate* for details about hospital coverage of emergency care and outpatient services.

Non-network hospital benefits apply to services provided at extension clinics in non-network hospitals. However, network benefits apply to emergency care. Page 2 of this Report has more information about network and non-network hospitals.

### **The Empire Plan Benefits Management Program**

#### **Hospital Coverage**

Effective September 1, 2005, you will be responsible for the full cost of any inpatient hospital day determined to be not medically necessary. Your *Empire Plan Certificate* has information about your right to appeal if you are charged for inpatient days that can be documented as medically necessary.

### **The Empire Plan Medical/Surgical Benefits Program**

#### **\$15 Copayment**

Beginning September 1, 2005, you pay a \$15 copayment for services by Empire Plan participating providers that are subject to copayments. Such services include office visits, office surgery, radiology services, diagnostic laboratory services, cardiac rehabilitation center visits, urgent care center visits and contraceptive drugs and devices dispensed in a doctor's office. Your copayment for services by Managed Physical Network (MPN) providers is also \$15 as of September 1, 2005.

#### **Radiology, Anesthesiology, Pathology**

Beginning September 1, 2005, if you receive radiology, anesthesia or pathology services in connection with inpatient or outpatient hospital services at an Empire Plan network hospital, covered charges billed separately by the radiologist, anesthesiologist or pathologist will be paid in full by United HealthCare.

Services provided by other specialty physicians in an Empire Plan network hospital continue to be considered under the Participating Provider Program or the Basic Medical Program.

#### **Pediatric Immunizations: Meningitis Vaccine Added Effective May 25, 2005**

Retroactive to May 25, 2005, meningitis vaccine is covered when provided in accordance with pediatric immunization guidelines. Coverage is available under the Participating Provider Program with no copayment and under the Basic Medical Program subject to deductible and coinsurance.

Your children, up to age 19, are covered for routine well-child immunizations and the cost of oral and injectable substances.

*Benefit Changes continued on page 4*

*Benefit Changes continued from page 3*

The meningitis immunization is covered for dependent students age 19 and over under the Participating Provider Program subject to a \$15 copayment.

#### **Prostheses and Orthotic Devices**

Effective September 1, 2005, The Empire Plan includes a nationwide network of certified suppliers of prostheses and orthotic devices under the Participating Provider Program. When you use an Empire Plan participating provider, you have a paid-in-full benefit, with no copayment, for prostheses and orthotic devices. The Empire Plan benefit provides for a prosthesis or an orthotic device meeting the individual's functional needs. Replacements, when functionally necessary, are also covered. Participating providers will offer adjustments to custom-fitted devices and appropriate follow-up care.

If your need is urgent, and/or you are unable to travel to the provider's office, some participating providers will guarantee an appointment within three days and will travel up to one hour to your home. Ask the provider directly or call United HealthCare at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) toll free.

A list of Empire Plan providers of prostheses and orthotic devices is available on the New York State Department of Civil Service web site at [www.cs.state.ny.us](http://www.cs.state.ny.us). Click on Employee Benefits and choose Empire Plan Providers, Pharmacies and Services. Or, call United HealthCare at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) toll free.

Prostheses and orthotic devices from non-network providers are covered under the Basic Medical Program.

#### **External Mastectomy Prostheses**

Effective September 1, 2005, one single or double external mastectomy prosthesis per calendar year is covered in full under the Basic Medical Program. This benefit has no deductible, coinsurance or copayment.

Any single external mastectomy prosthesis costing \$1,000 or more requires approval through the Home Care Advocacy Program (HCAP). Call HCAP toll free at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and choose United HealthCare before you purchase the prosthesis. For a prosthesis requiring approval, if a less expensive prosthesis can meet an individual's functional needs, benefits will be available for the most cost-effective choice.

After purchasing a mastectomy prosthesis, submit a completed claim form with the original itemized receipt to United HealthCare, P.O. Box 1600, Kingston, New York 12402-1600. United HealthCare will send reimbursement for the prosthesis directly to you.

The Empire Plan continues to cover mastectomy bras under the Basic Medical Program. Please see your *Empire Plan Certificate* for information.

#### **Hearing Aids**

Beginning September 1, 2005, under the Basic Medical Program, coverage for hearing aids, including evaluation, fitting and purchase, increases up to a total maximum reimbursement of \$1,200 per hearing aid, per ear. The increased benefit is available once in any four-year period for each ear. For children age 12 years and under, the increased benefit is available once in any two-year period for each ear when the child's hearing has changed and the existing hearing aid(s) no longer fills the need.

These benefits are not subject to deductible or coinsurance.

#### **The Empire Plan Hospital Benefits Program and Medical/Surgical Benefits Program**

##### **Infertility Benefits Maximum**

Beginning September 1, 2005, the lifetime maximum for certain infertility benefits, called Qualified Procedures, increases to \$50,000 per individual. This is an increase from the \$25,000 lifetime maximum. Please see your *Empire Plan Certificate* and *Empire Plan Reports* for information about Empire Plan infertility benefits and Qualified Procedures.

#### **The Empire Plan Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program**

##### **\$15 Copayment for Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment**

Beginning September 1, 2005, you pay a \$15 copayment for each visit to an approved Structured Outpatient Rehabilitation Program for substance abuse. The copayment for an outpatient mental health visit remains \$15.

To qualify for benefits, all covered services must be certified as medically necessary by ValueOptions.

##### **\$50 Copayment for Emergency Care for Mental Health/Substance Abuse Treatment**

Effective September 1, 2005, your copayment for emergency care in a hospital emergency room is \$50. You will not have to pay this \$50 copayment if you are treated in the emergency room and then admitted at that time as an inpatient. When you receive medically necessary covered services from a non-network provider in a certified emergency, the Program will provide network coverage until you can be transferred to a network facility.

##### **Substance Abuse Care**

##### **Lifetime Maximum**

##### **Effective January 1, 2005**

The lifetime maximum benefit for substance abuse care, including alcoholism, under non-network coverage is \$250,000 for you, the enrollee, and \$250,000 for each of your covered dependents. This benefit is retroactive to January 1, 2005. The previous lifetime maximum for substance abuse care was \$100,000.

# Basic Medical Provider Discount Program Available September 1, 2005

*The following applies to enrollees who have primary coverage through The Empire Plan.*

Beginning September 1, 2005, The Empire Plan includes a new program to reduce your out-of-pocket costs when you use a non-participating provider. This new program, The Empire Plan Basic Medical Provider Discount Program, offers discounts from certain physicians and other providers who are not part of The Empire Plan participating provider network. These providers are part of the MultiPlan group, a nationwide provider organization contracted with United HealthCare.

Providers in the Basic Medical Provider Discount Program accept a discounted fee for covered services. Empire Plan Basic Medical Program provisions apply. You must meet the annual Basic Medical deductible.

Your 20 percent coinsurance is based on the discounted fee, not the provider's usual fee or the reasonable and customary charges as under the Basic Medical Program.

You will receive the Basic Medical Provider Discount Program benefit if all the conditions below are met:

- The Empire Plan is your primary coverage;
- You receive covered Basic Medical services from the non-participating provider;
- The non-participating provider is in the MultiPlan network;
- The MultiPlan provider discounted fee is lower than the Basic Medical reasonable and customary allowance; and
- You have met your annual Basic Medical deductible.

The provider will submit claims for you and United HealthCare will pay the provider directly. Your Explanation of Benefits, which details claims payments, will show the discount applied to billed charges.

If the reasonable and customary allowance is lower than the discounted fee, the Basic Medical Provider Discount Program will not apply and you will be responsible for

reimbursing the provider directly and paying the provider's usual fee. Covered benefits will be paid to you directly and will not be sent to the provider in this case.

To find a provider in The Empire Plan Basic Medical Provider Discount Program, ask if the provider is an Empire Plan MultiPlan provider or call 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) toll free, choose United HealthCare and ask a representative for help. You can also visit the New York State Department of Civil Service web site at [www.cs.state.ny.us](http://www.cs.state.ny.us). Click on Employee Benefits, then on Empire Plan Providers, Pharmacies and Services.



The Basic Medical Provider Discount Program will be especially helpful to you when you or your dependents are traveling or away at school in an area where participating providers are not easily available. With the addition of this Program, you have another way to manage your health care costs.

# Centers of Excellence for Cancer Program Available July 1, 2005

If you or a covered dependent is diagnosed with cancer, think about using The Empire Plan Centers of Excellence for Cancer Program. The Program provides paid-in-full coverage for cancer-related expenses received through a nationwide network known as Cancer Resource Services (CRS).

To participate in this voluntary program, you must call The Empire Plan toll free at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447). Press or say 1 on the main menu for United HealthCare and then press or say 5 to connect to a Cancer Resource Services nurse consultant. Or, call the CRS toll-free number, 1-866-936-6002. Nurses are available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday except holidays.

CRS nurse consultants are experienced cancer nurses. They can answer your questions, help you understand a cancer diagnosis and cancer treatment options and provide support if you or a family member is diagnosed with cancer. CRS nurses can also help you choose the best physician and cancer center for treatment of the specific kind of cancer.

When you use a Center of Excellence for Cancer, you receive paid-in-full benefits with no copayment. The CRS network includes many of the nation's leading cancer centers. Among them are Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, and, in Boston, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Brigham & Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital.

If you choose to go to a Cancer Center of Excellence located more than 100 miles from your home, the Plan will assist you and one travel companion with expenses for travel, lodging and meals. You can find more information about Cancer Resource Services online at [www.urncrs.com](http://www.urncrs.com), the CRS web site.

Since the Centers of Excellence for Cancer Program is voluntary, you are still eligible for Empire Plan benefits for your medically necessary cancer treatment if you do not use the Program. However, you must follow the requirements of the Benefits Management Program and pay any applicable deductible, coinsurance and copayments.

# The Empire Plan Prescription Drug Program

## Copayment Changes Effective September 1, 2005

Beginning September 1, 2005, The Empire Plan Prescription Drug Program includes generic, preferred brand-name and non-preferred brand-name drugs. Your copayment amount depends on the drug and quantity prescribed and where you fill your prescription.

Prescription Drug Copayment Chart			
Supply Dispensed	generic	preferred brand-name	non-preferred brand-name
Up to a 30-day supply from a participating retail pharmacy or through the Express Scripts Mail Service Pharmacy	\$5 copayment	\$15 copayment	\$30 copayment
31- to 90-day supply through the Express Scripts Mail Service Pharmacy	\$5 copayment	\$20 copayment	\$55 copayment
31- to 90-day supply from a participating retail pharmacy	\$10 copayment	\$30 copayment	\$60 copayment

A list of the most commonly prescribed generic and preferred brand-name drugs is on the New York State Department of Civil Service web site at [www.cs.state.ny.us](http://www.cs.state.ny.us). Click on Employee Benefits and choose your group-specific benefits. Or, call The Empire Plan Prescription Drug Program toll free at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447). Choose Express Scripts.

### Generic Substitution

If your prescription is written for a brand-name drug that has a generic equivalent, The Empire Plan continues to cover only the cost of the drug's generic equivalent. If your prescription is written for a brand-name drug with a generic equivalent, you pay the non-preferred brand-name copayment plus the difference in cost between the brand-name and generic drug, not to exceed the full cost of the drug.

Certain drugs are excluded from this requirement. You will be responsible for the applicable preferred brand-name or non-preferred brand-name copayment.

Your *Empire Plan Certificate* has information about appealing the generic substitution requirement.

# NYSHIP Change

## Domestic Partner Eligibility

Effective September 1, 2005, 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 September 1, 2005, 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* and *Empire Plan Reports* for details.

## “Guaranteed Access” to Network Benefits

The Empire Plan has three programs that guarantee network benefits are available to you nationwide: the Home Care Advocacy Program (HCAP), the Managed Physical Medicine Program and the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program. When you follow each Program's requirements, you receive network benefits, the highest level of benefits.

### Home Care Advocacy Program

To receive HCAP network benefits for home care services, durable medical equipment and supplies, you must:

- Call The Empire Plan toll free at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and select United HealthCare, then the Home Care Advocacy Program,\* and
- Receive precertification of your home care and or equipment/supplies from United HealthCare, and

*Guaranteed Access continued on page 8*

# Questions and Answers

## About New Benefits

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**Q:** How will I know if my hospital is in The Empire Plan network?

**A:** A directory of Empire Plan network hospitals is available on the New York State Department of Civil Service web site at [www.cs.state.ny.us](http://www.cs.state.ny.us). Choose Employee Benefits and then click on Empire Plan Providers, Pharmacies and Services. Or, you can call The Empire Plan toll free at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and choose Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield to ask a representative.

**Q:** Is the hospital network access standard of within 30 miles of residence always based on my permanent address?

**A:** Not necessarily. For example, if you are temporarily living in another location or have a dependent, such as a college student, who is residing at another location, the Plan will approve network coverage at a non-network hospital if no network facility meets the access standard based on the place of residence at that time.

**Q:** If my Empire Plan medical provider has privileges only at a non-network hospital and that is the hospital I use, will I receive network or non-network hospital benefits? What if my Empire Plan provider sends me to a non-network hospital for lab work?

**A:** If you receive services at a non-network hospital and a network hospital is within 30 miles of your residence, you will receive non-network benefits and have out-of-pocket expenses. You will also receive non-network benefits if your provider sends you to a non-network hospital for lab work when a network hospital is within 30 miles of your residence.

**Q:** Will I get reimbursed for non-network hospital coinsurance amounts?

**A:** Yes. When your combined coinsurance payments for services at a non-network facility are more than \$500 for you, more than \$500 for your spouse/domestic partner or more than \$500 for all enrolled dependent children, you may send a completed claim form to United HealthCare for reimbursement. You will be reimbursed for the amount over \$500, up to the non-network hospital coinsurance maximum of \$1,500. Any network level copayments paid at non-network hospitals (emergency care copayment) do not count toward the coinsurance maximum.

For example, you receive services at a non-network hospital and have an out-of-pocket expense of \$400 in coinsurance. You again go to a non-network hospital in the same calendar year and pay another \$400

coinsurance. You have a combined out-of-pocket expense of \$800. You can now submit a claim to United HealthCare for reimbursement of \$300.

**Q:** How will I know if my prescription is for a generic or a preferred brand-name drug?

**A:** You'll find a list of the most commonly prescribed generic and preferred brand-name drugs on the Department of Civil Service web site at [www.cs.state.ny.us](http://www.cs.state.ny.us). Choose Employee Benefits and then your group-specific benefits. Or, you may call The Empire Plan toll free at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447). Choose Express Scripts.

**Q:** Will my doctor know The Empire Plan generic and preferred brand-name drugs?

**A:** The Empire Plan will provide doctors with the list of most commonly prescribed generic and preferred brand-name drugs. But, it is your responsibility to know in which category your drug is listed. Get the list from the web site or the Plan (see above) before your doctor's appointment.

**Q:** Does the Basic Medical Provider Discount Program replace the Basic Medical Program?

**A:** No. The Basic Medical Provider Discount Program is part of the Basic Medical Program. You may still choose to receive care under the Participating Provider Program. Or, you may choose non-participating providers under the Basic Medical Program.

**Q:** Why would I use the Basic Medical Provider Discount Program?

**A:** When a participating provider is not available, or you choose to go to a non-participating provider, the Basic Medical Provider Discount Program (MultiPlan) can save you money. After you meet your deductible, you are responsible for 20 percent of the discounted fee. The MultiPlan provider cannot balance bill you for amounts exceeding the discounted fee.

For example, you have met your deductible for the year and receive services costing \$200. The MultiPlan discounted fee is \$140. Your cost is \$28 (20 percent of the discounted fee). Plus, the provider submits the claim for you and United HealthCare pays the provider.

In contrast, for the same \$200 cost of services under the Basic Medical Program for non-participating providers, The Empire Plan pays \$128 (80 percent of the reasonable and customary charge of \$160). Your cost is \$72 (the difference between \$200 and \$128). And, you must file the claim for reimbursement yourself.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

*PBA-S and PBA-T Empire Plan Report – August 2005*

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). Click on Employee Benefits 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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*Guaranteed Access to Network Benefits continued from page 6*

- Use an HCAP-approved provider for covered services and/or equipment/supplies.

\*Exception: For diabetic supplies (except insulin pumps and Medijectors) or ostomy supplies, contact the HCAP network providers directly and toll free: National Diabetic Pharmacies (NDP), 1-888-306-7337 for diabetic supplies. (For insulin pumps and Medijectors, you must call HCAP for authorization.) Byram Healthcare Centers, 1-800-354-4054 for ostomy supplies.

**Managed Physical Medicine Program**

To receive network benefits for chiropractic treatment and physical therapy, you must use a Managed Physical Network (MPN) network provider for medically necessary services. You are not required to call MPN before your visit. You may contact a provider directly and ask if the

provider is in the network. Or, you may call The Empire Plan toll free at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and choose United HealthCare. United HealthCare will help you find an MPN network provider.

If there are no network providers in your area, MPN will arrange for you to receive medically necessary services with network benefits. You will pay only your copayments for each visit. But, you must call United HealthCare before you receive services and you must use the provider with whom MPN has arranged your care.

**Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program**

To receive network benefits for mental health or substance abuse care, including care for alcoholism, you must call The Empire Plan toll free at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and choose ValueOptions before you seek

treatment, and you must use a ValueOptions network provider.

If there are no network providers in your area, ValueOptions will arrange for you to receive medically necessary services with network benefits from a non-network provider or facility. But, you must call ValueOptions before you receive services and you must use the provider with whom ValueOptions has arranged your care.

**For More Information**

Please see your *Empire Plan Certificate* for more information about the Home Care Advocacy Program, the Managed Physical Medicine Program and the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program and for requirements in emergency situations. Remember: If you follow program requirements, you are guaranteed network benefits, the highest level of coverage.