New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) Reminders

New Baby in the Family
If you have Family coverage, remember to add your newborn child within 30 days after the birth or adoption. If you don’t, you may have difficulties receiving services.

Contact your agency Health Benefits Administrator within 30 days to fill out the forms and to provide a copy of the birth certificate. If you haven’t yet received a Social Security number for your baby, be sure to give your agency Health Benefits Administrator a copy of the child’s Social Security card as soon as you receive it.

Please see your NYSHIP General Information Book for information about and time frames for changing from Individual to Family coverage because of a new baby in your family.

Medicare General Enrollment
Medicare is primary for an active State employee/dependent with end stage renal disease (waiting period applies) and for an active State employee’s domestic partner who is age 65 or over.

Medicare is also primary for an active State employee, age 65 or over, who is enrolled in NYSHIP as the dependent of a retired spouse.

If you or your dependent is eligible for primary Medicare coverage and did not enroll in Medicare when first eligible, you must sign up during the Medicare general enrollment period, January 1 to March 31, 2002. Contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to enroll. NYSHIP requires you and your covered dependents to be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B when first eligible for Medicare coverage that pays primary to NYSHIP.

Pre-Retirement Seminars
The Department of Civil Service cooperates with the Employees’ Retirement System and the Office for the Aging in presenting pre-retirement 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 for the seminar schedule and to reserve your place.

You can also check the schedule on the New York State Department of Civil Service Web site, http://www.cs.state.ny.us. Click on Employee Benefits, then on Happenings.
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 Employee Benefits Division Web site (http://www.cs.state.ny.us), which 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).

NYSHIP Health Maintenance Organizations Telephone Numbers
Effective January 1, 2002

Aetna U.S. Healthcare.................................................................1-800-323-9930
Blue Choice.................................................................................(716) 454-4810 or 1-800-462-0108
Capital District Physicians’ Health Plan, Inc. (CDPHP) ..........1-800-777-2273
Community Blue .................................................................(716) 884-2800 or 1-800-544-2583
Empire HMO (formerly BlueChoice HMO) .........................1-800-453-0113
GHI HMO Select........................................................................1-877-244-4466
HIP Health Plan of New York..................................................1-800-HIP-TALK (1-800-447-8255)
HMO Blue.................................................................................1-800-722-7884
HMO-CNY..................................................................................1-800-447-6269
Independent Health-Western New York ...(716) 631-8701 or 1-800-501-3439
MVP Health Care........................................................................1-888-687-6277
Preferred Care............................................................................(716) 325-3113 or 1-800-950-3224
Univera (formerly Univera Healthcare).................................1-800-337-3338
Vytra Health Plans.....................................................................1-631-694-6565

Call your NYSHIP HMO for:
• benefits information
• lists of providers
• replacement cards
• prescription drug information (unless you receive prescription drug coverage through a union Employee Benefit Fund)

• converting to a direct-pay contract
• coordinating with Medicare

State of New York
Department of Civil Service
Employee Benefits Division
The State Campus, Albany, New York 12239
http://www.cs.state.ny.us

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