NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. | Department of Civil Service

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

October 2015

Dear NYSHIP Enrollee:

The New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) HMO that you are currently enrolled in, **Aetna,** will not be offered as an option under NYSHIP in 2016. As a result, you will need to enroll in either The Empire Plan or any other NYSHIP-approved HMO that serves the area where you live or work.

So that we may get you properly enrolled in your new option, please complete and mail the attached *Option Transfer Request Form* no later than December 15, 2015, so that you will have coverage January 1, 2016.

NOTE: If you are enrolled in Medicare, in order to be properly enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan or Empire Plan Medicare Rx, you must return your *Option Transfer Request Form* by November 30, 2015.

We understand that you may not have your 2016 rates by November 30, but your action is required if you wish to maintain continuous coverage.

NYSHIP Publications and forms to help you
We are enclosing the *Option Transfer Request Form* and *the 2016 NYSHIP Options by County* to help you with this process. We will send you the *2016 Health Insurance* Choices *for Retirees* in late November or early December. The current version of Retiree Choices is available online at https://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits. The *2016 Rates for Retirees of New York State* will be mailed to you when rates are approved. They will be posted online as soon as approved.

If you are or will become Medicare primary
When you or your dependents become Medicare-primary and are enrolled in The Empire Plan, you will automatically be enrolled in Empire Plan Medicare Rx (PDP), a Medicare Part D prescription drug program.

When you or your dependents become Medicare primary and are enrolled in a NYSHIP HMO that is a Medicare Advantage (MA) Plan, you will automatically be enrolled in the MA plan of the HMO. NYSHIP Medicare Advantage Plans include Medicare Parts A, B and D coverage.

Empire State Plaza, Core Building 1, Albany, NY 12239 | www.cs.ny.gov

Notices from Aetna

You may receive additional mailings from Aetna but they will not impact this process.

Materials for your new plan will be sent to you

If you have questions about The Empire Plan, call The Empire Plan toll free at 1-877-769-7447. If you have questions about a NYSHIP HMO, call the HMO directly. The HMO telephone numbers are in Choices or on NYSHIP Online.

The materials you need for your new plan, including your new benefit card(s) will be mailed to your home.

If you have questions about making your selection, please call the Employee Benefits Division at (518) 457-5754 (Albany area) or 1-800-833-4344 (U.S., outside Albany local calling area, Canada, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands.)

Enclosures:

- Option Transfer Request Form
- 2016 NYSHIP Options by County

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