Choose Your Health Insurance Option for 2020 by December 31, 2019

The Option Transfer Period is here — the time to choose the health insurance option you want for 2020. The New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) offers you the choice of The Empire Plan or a NYSHIP-approved Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) serving the area where you live or work. You may also be able to opt out of coverage for the 2020 plan year in exchange for an incentive payment (see page 8).

Except under limited circumstances, you cannot change options outside the annual Option Transfer Period, which ends on December 31, 2019.

To change your health insurance option during the Option Transfer Period, contact your Health Benefits Administrator (HBA) as soon as possible for the Health Insurance Transaction Form (PS-404).

Pre-Tax Contribution Program (PTCP) Election Period Changes for 2020

The PTCP Election Period now runs concurrently with the Option Transfer Period. If you wish to change your Pre-Tax election, you must submit a Health Insurance Transaction Form (PS-404) to your HBA by December 31, 2019. For more information about the PTCP see Planning for Option Transfer or your General Information Book.

NO ACTION IS REQUIRED IF YOU WISH TO KEEP YOUR CURRENT HEALTH INSURANCE OPTION OR PRE-TAX STATUS AND STILL QUALIFY FOR THEM. (SEE THE NOTE AT THE TOP OF PAGE 4.)
**Choices Explains Your Current Option and Other Available Options**

If you are considering changing your health insurance option for 2020 or wish to review your current option, ask your HBA for a copy of *Health Insurance Choices for 2020*, your guide to NYSHIP options. You can also find *Choices* and other option transfer publications on NYSHIP Online at www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits. Select your group and plan, if prompted, and then select Health Benefits & Option Transfer. Choose Rates and Health Plan Choices for the most up-to-date option transfer information.

Your current plan will notify you directly of any copayment or benefit changes for 2020. For questions about The Empire Plan, call toll free at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447). Select the Medical/Surgical Program and then the appropriate prompt for option transfer benefit questions. For questions about NYSHIP HMOs, contact the HMOs directly (see pages 6 and 7).

Be sure you understand how your benefits will be affected if you change options. You are choosing a benefit package for yourself and your covered dependents for the entire 2020 plan year. Changing options may result in substantially different coverage and cost.

To generate a comparison of the benefits provided by each of the NYSHIP plans in your area, use the NYSHIP Plan Comparison tool, available on NYSHIP Online at www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits. Select your group and plan, if prompted, and then choose Health Benefits & Option Transfer. Select Rates and Health Plan Choices and then NYSHIP Plan Comparison. Next, confirm your group and select the counties where you live and work. On the list of available options, check the box next to the plans you want to compare and click on Compare Plans to generate the side-by-side comparison table.

**Summary of Benefits and Coverage**

The *Summary of Benefits and Coverage* (SBC) is a standardized comparison document required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

To view a copy of the SBC for The Empire Plan or a NYSHIP HMO, visit www.cs.ny.gov/sbc. If you do not have internet access, call 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and select the Medical/Surgical Program to request a copy for The Empire Plan. If you need an SBC for a NYSHIP HMO, contact the HMO directly.

**Keep Your Information Up To Date**

Be sure to keep your personal information updated, such as your name, address and phone number. Notify your HBA when changes in your family, marital or employment status affect your coverage. Please act promptly as deadlines may apply. See your *General Information Book* for details.

**Retiring Or Leaving State Service In 2020?**

If you continue your NYSHIP enrollment as a retiree or vestee, you may change your health insurance plan when your status changes. As a retiree or vestee, you may also change your health insurance option at any time once during a 12-month period. If you are planning to retire or vest in 2020, ask your HBA for a copy of *Choices for Retirees* to see how retirement will affect your coverage. Visit NYSHIP Online at www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits for this publication and more information about retirement. Select your group and plan, if prompted, and then select Planning to Retire.
# Important Dates For Your Benefit Choices

**December 31, 2019**

Deadline for submitting a signed *Health Insurance Transaction Form (PS-404)* to your HBA if you want to change your health insurance option and/or Pre-Tax election for the 2020 plan year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>Date new health insurance options begin</th>
<th>Earliest paycheck in which a deduction change will be made</th>
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<tr>
<td>Administration Lag-Exempt Payroll Employees</td>
<td>December 26, 2019</td>
<td>December 11, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration Lag-Payroll Employees</td>
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<td>December 19, 2019</td>
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Based on payroll deadlines, deduction changes related to an option-change request may be made in a future paycheck and will include adjustments retroactive to the beginning of the plan year.
### New York State Health Insurance Program 2020 Rates

#### Enrollee Contributions for Employees of New York State

**Note:** To enroll in an HMO, you must live or work in the HMO’s service area. If you no longer live or work in the NYSHIP service area of the HMO in which you are enrolled, you must change to another option. Service areas may change from year to year. Please check pages 6-7 for NYSHIP service area information.

#### Biweekly Costs Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page in Choices</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Plan</th>
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<th>Family</th>
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#### Your Biweekly Premium Contribution

For all non-UUP New York State employees in titles allocated or equated to Salary Grade 9 and below and United University Professions (UUP) employees with an annualized salary less than $45,198, the State will pay 84 percent of the cost of the premium for enrollee coverage and 73 percent for the additional cost of dependent coverage.

For all non-UUP New York State employees in titles allocated or equated to Salary Grade 10 and above and UUP employees with an annualized salary equal to $45,198 or more, the State will pay 88 percent of the cost of the premium for enrollee coverage and 69 percent for the additional cost of dependent coverage.

The State's dollar contribution for the non-prescription drug components of the HMO premium, however, will not exceed its dollar contribution for the non-prescription drug components of The Empire Plan premium.

**Note:** This information does not apply to Leave Without Pay, COBRA and Young Adult Option (“Direct Pay”) enrollees. Direct Pay enrollees will be notified of their rates separately.

As of January 1, 2020, the Empire BlueCross BlueShield HMOs will no longer be offered through NYSHIP. If you currently have coverage under an Empire BlueCross BlueShield HMO, you must make an option change. As previously advised, if no action has been taken by December 20, 2019 however, you will be enrolled in The Empire Plan for plan year 2020 to ensure no interruption in coverage.
Code | Plan and Service Area
--- | ---
001 | The Empire Plan  
(available to enrollees and their eligible dependents worldwide)  
1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447)  
www.cs.ny.gov  
Medical Program: UnitedHealthcare  
P.O. Box 1600, Kingston, NY 12402-1600  
TTY: 1-888-697-9054  
Hospital Program: Empire BlueCross  
NYS Service Center, P.O. Box 1407,  
Church Street Station, New York, NY 10008-1407  
TTY: 1-800-241-6894  
Mental Health/Substance Abuse Program:  
Beacon Health Options, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1850, Hicksville, NY 11802  
TTY: 1-855-643-1476  
Prescription Drug Program:  
CVS Caremark  
P.O. Box 6590, Lee’s Summit, MO 64064-6590  
TTY: 711

066 | Blue Choice  
165 Court St., Rochester, NY 14647  
1-800-499-1275  
TTY: 1-800-662-1220  
www.excellusbcbs.com  
Serving Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates counties

067 | BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York  
P.O. Box 80, Buffalo, NY 14240-0800  
716-887-8840 or 1-877-576-6440  
TTY: 711  
www.bcbswny.com/nyship  
Serving Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming counties

063 | Capital District Physicians’ Health Plan (CDPHP) (Capital)  
500 Patroon Creek Blvd., Albany, NY 12206-1057  
518-641-3700 or 1-800-777-2273  
TTY: 711  
www.cdphp.com  
Serving Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren and Washington counties

Code | Plan and Service Area
--- | ---
300 | Capital District Physicians’ Health Plan (CDPHP) (Central)  
500 Patroon Creek Blvd., Albany, NY 12206-1057  
518-641-3700 or 1-800-777-2273  
TTY: 711  
www.cdphp.com  
Serving Broome, Chenango, Essex, Hamilton, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Otsego and Tioga counties

310 | Capital District Physicians’ Health Plan (CDPHP) (Hudson Valley)  
500 Patroon Creek Blvd., Albany, NY 12206-1057  
518-641-3700 or 1-800-777-2273  
TTY: 711  
www.cdphp.com  
Serving Delaware, Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties

050 | HIP Health Plan of New York (Downstate)  
EmblemHealth, 55 Water St., New York, NY 10041  
1-800-447-8255  
TTY: 1-888-447-4833  
www.emblemhealth.com  
Serving Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Queens, Richmond, Suffolk and Westchester counties

220 | HIP Health Plan of New York (Capital)  
EmblemHealth, 55 Water St., New York, NY 10041  
1-800-447-8255  
TTY: 1-888-447-4833  
www.emblemhealth.com  
Serving Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren and Washington counties

350 | HIP Health Plan of New York (Hudson Valley)  
EmblemHealth, 55 Water St., New York, NY 10041  
1-800-447-8255  
TTY: 1-888-447-4833  
www.emblemhealth.com  
Serving Delaware, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan and Ulster counties
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Plan and Service Area</th>
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| 072   | **HMOBlue (Central New York Region)**  
333 Butternut Dr., Syracuse, NY 13214-1803  
1-800-499-1275  
TTY: 1-800-662-1220  
www.excellusbcbs.com  
Serving Broome, Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Onondaga, Oswego, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga and Tompkins counties |
| 160   | **HMOBlue (Utica Region)**  
12 Rhoads Dr., Utica, NY 13502  
1-800-499-1275  
TTY: 1-800-662-1220  
www.excellusbcbs.com  
Serving Chenango, Clinton, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego and St. Lawrence counties |
| 059   | **Independent Health**  
511 Farber Lakes Dr., Buffalo, NY 14221  
1-800-501-3439  
TTY: 716-631-3108  
www.independenthealth.com  
Serving Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming counties |
| 058   | **MVP Health Care (Rochester)**  
P.O. Box 2207, 625 State St., Schenectady, NY 12301-2207  
1-888-MVP-MBRS (1-888-687-6277)  
TTY: 1-800-662-1220  
www.mvphealthcare.com  
Serving Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates counties |
| 060   | **MVP Health Care (East)**  
P.O. Box 2207, 625 State St., Schenectady, NY 12301-2207  
1-888-MVP-MBRS (1-888-687-6277)  
TTY: 1-800-662-1220  
www.mvphealthcare.com  
| 330   | **MVP Health Care (Central)**  
P.O. Box 2207, 625 State St., Schenectady, NY 12301-2207  
1-888-MVP-MBRS (1-888-687-6277)  
TTY: 1-800-662-1220  
www.mvphealthcare.com  
Serving Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Otsego, Tioga and Tompkins counties |
| 340   | **MVP Health Care (Mid-Hudson)**  
P.O. Box 2207, 625 State St., Schenectady, NY 12301-2207  
1-888-MVP-MBRS (1-888-687-6277)  
TTY: 1-800-662-1220  
www.mvphealthcare.com  
Serving Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties |
| 360   | **MVP Health Care (North)**  
P.O. Box 2207, 625 State St., Schenectady, NY 12301-2207  
1-888-MVP-MBRS (1-888-687-6277)  
TTY: 1-800-662-1220  
www.mvphealthcare.com  
Serving Clinton, Essex, Franklin and St. Lawrence counties |
## Changing Options Outside the Option Transfer Period

Read your *General Information Book* for a list of qualifying life events that allow you to change options outside of the Option Transfer Period. Contact your HBA for more information.

## Opt-Out Program for 2020

If you have coverage under another employer-sponsored health insurance program, you may be eligible to opt out of NYSHIP coverage in exchange for an incentive payment. See *Planning for Option Transfer and Choices* for details. If you are interested in participating in the Opt-out Program for 2020, see your HBA.

It is no longer necessary to reenroll in the Opt-out Program each year. No action is required for current Opt-out enrollees who are still eligible and wish to remain in the Program for the 2020 plan year. **Note:** Employees who are represented by UUP are not eligible to participate in this program.