

NYSHIP

BENEFIT CHANGES



OCTOBER 2002

NEW YORK STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (NYSHIP)
FOR ACTIVE EMPLOYEES, RETIREES, VESTEDS AND DEPENDENTS SURVIVORS
And their Dependents enrolled through PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Empire Plan Benefit Changes

Effective January 1, 2003

United HealthCare Medical Coverage

\$12 Copayment: Beginning January 1, 2003, your copayment increases from \$10 to \$12 for services by Empire Plan participating providers which are subject to copayment, such as office visits, office surgery, radiology services, diagnostic laboratory services, cardiac rehabilitation center visits and urgent care center visits. Your copayment for services by Managed Physical Network (MPN) providers will also be \$12.

Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield Hospital Coverage

\$12 Copayment: Beginning January 1, 2003, your copayment will be \$12 for each visit to the outpatient department of a hospital for physical therapy when covered by Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Please see your *Empire Plan Certificate* for more information.

Empire Plan Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program

\$12 Copayment: Beginning January 1, 2003, visits to ValueOptions network providers for outpatient substance abuse treatment will be subject to a \$12 copayment. To qualify for benefits, all covered services must be certified as medically necessary by ValueOptions.



**We'll mail an Empire Plan Report
with more information to you in
December/January.**

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

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

Participating Agencies NYSHIP Benefit Changes – October 2002

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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). 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.

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NYSHIP SUMMARY-PA-02 

Annual Notice of Mastectomy and Reconstructive Surgery Benefits

The Empire Plan covers 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. The Plan covers all stages of reconstructive breast surgery following mastectomy, including surgery of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance. The Plan also covers treatment for complications of mastectomy, including lymphedema. Prosthetics and mastectomy bras are covered under the Basic Medical Program.

Call United HealthCare at 1-800-942-4640 if you have questions about your coverage for implants, breast forms or other prostheses related to breast cancer treatment.

Empire Plan Benefits Management Program requirements apply. See your *Empire Plan Certificate* and *Empire Plan Reports*.



**Watch for the announcement of
a single new NYSHIP telephone
number to connect to Empire
Plan carriers.**