



November 2015

Health Insurance Choices for 2016

For Employees of the
State of New York,
Participating Employers,
their Enrolled Dependents,
COBRA Enrollees with
their NYSHIP benefits and
Young Adult Option Enrollees



NEW
YORK
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NYSHIP
New York State
Health Insurance Program

Information & Reminders

Make Your Health Plan Choices

This booklet explains the options available to you under the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) for your health insurance and other elections. You may choose coverage under either The Empire Plan or one of the NYSHIP-approved Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) in your area. Or, if you are already enrolled in a NYSHIP option and you can be covered under other employer-sponsored group health benefits, you may be eligible to elect the Opt-out Program.*

Consider your options carefully. You may not change your option after the deadline except in special circumstances. (See your *NYSHIP General Information Book* and *Empire Plan Reports* or *HMO Reports* for details about changing options outside the Option Transfer Period). If you have questions after you have read the information in this booklet, contact your Health Benefits Administrator (HBA) or The Empire Plan administrators and HMOs directly.

* The Opt-out Program is available to eligible NYS employees in the following groups who have other employer-sponsored group health insurance: APSU, C-82, CSEA, DC-37, M/C; Legislature, NYSCOPBA, PBA-S, PBA-T, PEF, UUP and UCS. Check with your HBA if you have any questions about your eligibility for the Opt-out Program. Employees of Participating Employers in NYSHIP should check with their HBA to determine if their employer offers a program similar to the Opt-out Program.

Rates For 2016 And Deadline For Changing Plans

The Empire Plan and HMO rates for 2016 are mailed to your home and posted on our web site, NYSHIP Online, <https://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits>, as soon as they are approved. Select your group, if prompted, and then Health Benefits & Option Transfer. Choose Rates and Health Plan Choices. (**Note:** Participating Employers, such as the Thruway Authority and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, will notify their enrollees of 2016 rates).

The rate flyer announces the option-change deadline and paycheck deduction dates. You have 30 days from the date your agency receives rate information to make a decision. Your HBA can help if you have questions. COBRA and Young Adult Option Enrollees may contact the Employee Benefits Division at 518-457-5754 or 1-800-833-4344 (U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands).

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Changing Your 2016 Pre-Tax Contribution Program Status (November 30, 2015 Deadline)

Pre-Tax does not apply to COBRA and Young Adult Option enrollees. The following information also may not apply to Participating Employers. PEs will provide specific pre-tax guidance to their employees, if they participate in a Pre-Tax Contribution Program (PTCP).

Under the Pre-Tax Contribution Program (PTCP), your share of the health insurance premium is deducted from your wages before taxes are withheld, which may lower your tax liability.

NO ACTION IS REQUIRED TO KEEP YOUR CURRENT PTCP STATUS.

If you wish to change your PTCP selection for 2016, submit a signed and completed Health Insurance Transaction Form (PS-404) to your HBA between November 1 and November 30, 2015.

Checking Your PTCP Status

Your paycheck shows whether or not you are enrolled in PTCP.

- If you are enrolled in PTCP, your paycheck stub shows “Regular Before-Tax Health” in the Before-Tax Deductions section. Your health insurance premium is deducted from your wages before taxes are withheld.
- If you are not enrolled in PTCP, your paycheck stub shows “Regular After-Tax Health” in the After-Tax Deductions section. Your health insurance premium is deducted from your wages after taxes are withheld.

New Enrollees

New enrollees must elect whether or not to participate in PTCP when enrolling for NYSHIP coverage. No election will be made automatically on the enrollee’s behalf. Enrollment cannot be completed without a PTCP election.

PTCP Enrollment Limits Mid-Year Changes

Under Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules, if you are enrolled in PTCP, you may not change your **pre-tax payroll deduction for health benefits** during the Plan year (by changing your health benefit option, changing your coverage [Family or Individual] or by canceling

coverage) unless one of the following PTCP qualifying events occurs. Requests to change your pre-tax deduction during the tax year must be consistent (for all individuals covered under the contract) with qualifying life events and must be requested within 30 days of the event. Payroll deductions can be changed during the tax year only after one of the following PTCP qualifying events:

- Change in marital status
- Change in number of dependents
- Change in your (or your dependents’) employment status that affects eligibility for health benefits
- Your dependent satisfies or ceases to satisfy eligibility requirements for health benefits
- Change in your (or your dependents’) place of residence or worksite that affects eligibility for benefits
- Significant change in health benefits and/or premium under NYSHIP
- Significant change in health benefits and/or premium under your (or your dependents’) other employer’s plan
- COBRA events
- Judgment, decree or order to provide health benefits to eligible dependents
- Medicare or Medicaid eligibility
- Leaves of absence
- HIPAA special enrollment rights

A coverage change due to a qualifying event must be requested within 30 days of the event (or within the waiting period if newly eligible); delays may be costly.

See your HBA to change your health insurance option, type of coverage or pre-tax status.

NO ACTION IS REQUIRED IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO MAKE CHANGES (unless you wish to continue enrollment in the Opt-out Program; see page 15).

Changes are not automatic and deadlines apply. You must report any change that may affect your coverage to your HBA. See pages 1-3 in this booklet and your *NYSHIP General Information Book* for complete information.

Information & Reminders

Your Share of the Premium

The following does not apply to employees of Participating Employers. Participating Employers will provide premium information. It also does not apply to COBRA and Young Adult Option enrollees; they pay the full cost of coverage.

New York State helps pay for your health insurance coverage. After the State's contribution, you are responsible for paying the balance of your premium, usually through biweekly deductions from your paycheck.

Whether you enroll in The Empire Plan or in a NYSHIP HMO, the State's share and your share of the cost of coverage are based on the following (salary requirements vary; contact your HBA for more information):

| Enrollee's Pay Grade | Individual Coverage | | Dependent Coverage | |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | State Share | Employee Share | State Share | Employee Share |
| Grade 9 and below* | 88% | 12% | 73% | 27% |
| Grade 10 and above* | 84% | 16% | 69% | 31% |

* or salary equivalent, if no Grade assigned. Contact your HBA to confirm.

Note for PIA: The State share of the cost is 90 percent for Individual coverage and 75 percent for dependent coverage; the employee share is 10 percent and 25 percent respectively.

If you enroll in a NYSHIP HMO, the State's dollar contribution for the hospital, medical/surgical and mental health and substance abuse components of your HMO premium will not exceed its dollar contribution for those components of The Empire Plan premium. For the prescription drug component of your HMO premium, the State pays the share noted in the table; the dollar amount is not limited by the cost of Empire Plan drug coverage.

As soon as they are available, 2016 rates will be mailed to your home and posted on NYSHIP Online at <https://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits>. Select your group, if prompted, and then Health Benefits & Option Transfer. Choose Rates and Health Plan Choices.

Let Your Agency Know About Changes

You must notify your HBA if your home address or phone number changes. If you are an active employee of New York State and registered for MyNYSHIP, you may also make address and option changes online.

Note: MyNYSHIP is not available for active employees of Participating Employers.

Changes in your family status, such as gaining or losing a dependent, may mean you need to change your health insurance coverage from Individual to Family or from Family to Individual. If you submit a timely request, you can make most changes any time, not just during the Option Transfer Period. See your *NYSHIP General Information Book* for details. Inform your HBA about any change promptly to ensure it is effective on the actual date of change in family status.

Retiring or Leaving State Service in 2016?

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 change health insurance options at any time once during a 12-month period. For more information on changing options as a retiree or vestee, ask your HBA for *2016 Choices for Retirees*.

Eligible for Medicare?

If you or a dependent is eligible for Medicare because of age or disability, see Medicare and NYSHIP on page 6 for important information. Also, please read this section if you or a dependent will be turning age 65 in 2016 or if you are planning to retire in the coming year and will be Medicare primary.

Comparing Your NYSHIP Options

Choosing the option that best meets your needs and the needs of your family requires careful consideration. As with most important purchases, there is more to consider than cost.

The first step toward making a good choice is understanding the similarities and the differences among your NYSHIP options. There are two types of health insurance plans available to you under NYSHIP: The Empire Plan and NYSHIP HMOs. The Empire Plan is available to all employees. NYSHIP HMOs are available in various geographic areas of New York State. Depending on where you live or work, one or several NYSHIP HMOs will be available to you. The Empire Plan and NYSHIP HMOs are similar in many ways, but also have important differences.

Also, if you have other employer-sponsored group health benefits available to you, you may be eligible for the Opt-out Program. (See page 15 for details).

Benefits

The Empire Plan and NYSHIP HMOs

- All NYSHIP plans provide a wide range of hospital, medical/surgical, and mental health and substance abuse coverage.
- All plans provide prescription drug coverage if you do not receive it through a union Employee Benefit Fund.
- All plans provide coverage for certain preventive care services as required by the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). For further information on preventive care services, visit <http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/rights/preventive-care>.*

Benefits differ among plans. Read this booklet and the Empire Plan Certificate (available from your HBA) and HMO contracts (available from each HMO) carefully for details.

Exclusions

- All plans contain coverage exclusions for certain services and prescription drugs.
- Workers' compensation-related expenses and custodial care generally are excluded from coverage.

For details on a plan's exclusions, read *The Empire Plan Certificate* or the NYSHIP HMO contract or check with the plan directly.

Geographic Area Served

The Empire Plan

Benefits for covered services, not just urgent and emergency care, are available worldwide.

Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs)

- Coverage is available in each HMO's specific service area.
- An HMO may arrange for coverage of care received outside its service area at its discretion in certain circumstances. See the Out-of-Area benefit description on each HMO page for more detailed information.

* **PIA enrollees:** Please refer to the *Health Insurance Choices for 2016 Supplement for PIA* for more information about your Empire Plan benefits.

Terms to Know

Coinsurance: The enrollee's share of the cost of covered services, which is a fixed percentage of covered medical expenses.

Copayment: The enrollee's share of the cost of covered services, which is a fixed dollar amount paid when a medical service is received, regardless of the total charge for the service.

Deductible: The dollar amount an enrollee is required to pay before health plan benefits begin to reimburse for services.

Fee-for-service: A method of billing for health care services. A provider charges a fee each time an enrollee receives a service.

Formulary: A list of preferred drugs used by a health plan. If a plan has a **closed formulary**, you have coverage only for drugs that appear on the list. An **open or incented formulary** encourages use of preferred drugs to non-preferred drugs based on a tiered copayment schedule. In a **flexible formulary**, brand-name prescription drugs may be assigned to different copayment levels based on value to the plan and clinical judgment. In some cases, drugs may be excluded from coverage under a flexible formulary if a therapeutic equivalent is covered or available as an over-the-counter drug.

Health Benefits Administrator (HBA): An individual responsible for providing benefits assistance to active State employees. HBAs work with the Employee Benefits Division in the Department of Civil Service to process transactions and answer questions regarding eligibility and enrollment. You are responsible for notifying your HBA of changes that affect your enrollment and/or your or your dependents' eligibility for benefits.

Health Maintenance Organization (HMO): A managed care delivery system organized to deliver health care services in a geographic area. An HMO provides a predetermined set of benefits through a network of selected physicians, laboratories and hospitals for a prepaid premium. Except for emergency services and other services approved by your HMO, you and your enrolled dependents may have coverage only for services received from your HMO's network. See NYSHIP Health Maintenance Organizations on page 10 for more information on HMOs, including descriptions of the two different types—Network and Independent Practice Association (IPA)—offered under NYSHIP.

Managed Care: A health care program designed to ensure you receive the highest quality medical care for the lowest cost, in the most appropriate health care setting. Most managed care plans require you to select a primary care physician employed by (or who contracts with) the managed health care system. He/she serves as your health care manager by coordinating virtually all health care services you receive. Your primary care physician provides your routine medical care and refers you to a specialist if necessary.

Medicare: A federal health insurance program that covers certain people age 65 or older, disabled persons under 65, and those who have end-stage renal disease (permanent kidney failure). Medicare is directed by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and administered by the Social Security Administration.

Medicare Advantage plan: A Medicare option wherein the plan agrees with Medicare to accept a fixed monthly payment for each Medicare enrollee. In exchange, the plan provides or pays for all medical care needed by the enrollee. If you join a Medicare Advantage plan, you replace your Original (fee-for-service) Medicare coverage (Parts A and B) with benefits offered by the plan and all of your medical care (except for emergency or out-of-area, urgently needed care) must be provided, arranged or authorized by the Medicare Advantage plan. All NYSHIP Medicare Advantage HMOs include Medicare Part D drug coverage. The benefits under these plans are set in accordance with federal guidelines for Medicare Advantage plans.

Network: A group of doctors, hospitals and/or other health care providers who participate in a health plan and agree to follow the plan's procedures.

New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP): NYSHIP covers more than 1.2 million public employees, retirees and dependents and is one of the largest group health insurance programs in the country. The Program provides health care benefits through The Empire Plan or a NYSHIP-approved HMO.

Option: A health insurance plan offered through NYSHIP. Options include The Empire Plan and NYSHIP-approved HMOs within specific geographic areas. The Opt-out Program (NYSHIP code #700) is also considered a NYSHIP option.

NYSHIP's Young Adult Option

During the Option Transfer Period, eligible adult children of NYSHIP enrollees can enroll in the Young Adult Option and current Young Adult Option enrollees will be able to switch plans. This option allows unmarried, young adult children up to age 30 to purchase their own NYSHIP coverage. The premium is the full cost of Individual coverage for the option selected.

Young Adult Option Web Site

For more information about the Young Adult Option, go to <https://www.cs.ny.gov/yao> and choose your group. This site is your best resource for information on NYSHIP's Young Adult Option. If you have additional questions, please contact the Employee Benefits Division at 518-457-5754 or 1-800-833-4344.

Medicare & NYSHIP

If you are an active employee, NYSHIP (The Empire Plan or a NYSHIP HMO) provides primary coverage for you and your dependents, regardless of age or disability. **Exceptions:** Medicare is primary for domestic partners age 65 or over, or for an active employee or dependent of an active employee with end-stage renal disease (following a 30-month coordination period).

NYSHIP requires you and your dependents to be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B when first eligible for Medicare coverage that pays primary to NYSHIP.

If you are planning to retire and you or your spouse is 65 or older, contact your Social Security office three months before active employment ends to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B. Medicare becomes primary to your NYSHIP coverage the first day of the month following a “runout” period of 28 days after the end of the payroll period in which you retire.*

If you or a dependent is eligible for Medicare coverage primary to NYSHIP and you don’t enroll in Parts A and B, The Empire Plan or HMO will not provide benefits for services Medicare would have paid if you or your dependent had enrolled.**

If you are planning to retire or vest in 2016, know how your NYSHIP benefits will be affected when Medicare is your primary coverage:

- **If you are enrolled in original Medicare (Parts A and B) and The Empire Plan:** Since Medicare does not provide coverage outside the United States, The Empire Plan pays primary for covered services received outside the United States.
- **If you enroll in a NYSHIP HMO Medicare Advantage plan:** You replace your original (fee-for-service) Medicare coverage with benefits offered by the Medicare Advantage plan. Benefits and networks under the HMO’s Medicare Advantage plan may differ from your coverage as an active employee. To qualify for benefits, you must follow plan rules.
- **If you enroll in a NYSHIP HMO that coordinates coverage with Medicare:** You receive the same benefits from the HMO as an active employee and

still qualify for original Medicare benefits if you receive treatment outside your HMO.

Medicare Part D is the Medicare prescription drug benefit for Medicare-primary persons. Medicare-primary enrollees and dependents in The Empire Plan are enrolled automatically in Empire Plan Medicare Rx, a Part D prescription drug program. NYSHIP Medicare Advantage HMOs also provide Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage. You can be enrolled in only one Medicare product at a time. Enrolling in a Medicare Part D plan or Medicare Advantage plan separate from your NYSHIP coverage may drastically reduce your benefits overall. For example:

- If you are a Medicare-primary Empire Plan enrollee or dependent and get your prescription drug coverage through Empire Plan Medicare Rx and then you enroll in another Medicare Part D plan outside of NYSHIP, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will terminate your coverage in Empire Plan Medicare Rx. Since you must be enrolled in Empire Plan Medicare Rx to maintain Empire Plan coverage, in most cases, this means you and your covered dependents will lose all coverage under The Empire Plan.
- If you are enrolled in a NYSHIP Medicare Advantage HMO and then enroll in a Medicare Part D plan outside of NYSHIP, CMS will terminate your enrollment in the NYSHIP Medicare Advantage HMO.

If you have been approved for Extra Help by Medicare and you are enrolled in The Empire Plan or a NYSHIP Medicare Advantage HMO, you may be reimbursed for some or all of your cost of Medicare Part D coverage. For information about qualifying for Extra Help, contact Medicare. If you have been approved for Extra Help, contact the Employee Benefits Division or your HMO.

If you receive prescription drug coverage through a union Employee Benefit Fund, contact the Fund for information about Medicare Part D.

For more information about NYSHIP and Medicare, see your *NYSHIP General Information Book* or ask your HBA for a copy of *2016 Choices for Retirees, Planning for Retirement or Medicare & NYSHIP*.

* If you are an employee of a Participating Employer, you may have a different “runout” period. Check with your HBA to verify when you will be Medicare primary after you retire.

**If you are asked to pay a Part A premium, see your HBA for more information.

Benefits Provided by The Empire Plan and All NYSHIP HMOs

- Inpatient medical/surgical hospital care
- Outpatient medical/surgical hospital services
- Physician services
- Emergency services*
- Laboratory services
- Radiology services
- Chemotherapy
- Radiation therapy
- Dialysis
- Diagnostic services
- Diabetic supplies
- Maternity, prenatal care
- Well-child care
- Chiropractic services
- Skilled nursing facility services
- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Speech therapy
- Prosthetics and durable medical equipment
- Orthotic devices
- Medically necessary bone density tests
- Mammography
- Inpatient mental health services
- Outpatient mental health services
- Alcohol and substance abuse detoxification
- Inpatient alcohol rehabilitation
- Inpatient drug rehabilitation
- Outpatient alcohol and drug rehabilitation
- Family planning and certain infertility services (call The Empire Plan administrators or NYSHIP HMO for details).
- Out-of-area emergencies
- Hospice benefits (at least 210 days)
- Home health care in lieu of hospitalization
- Prescription drug coverage including injectable and self-injectable medications, contraceptive drugs and devices and fertility drugs (unless you have coverage through a union Employee Benefit Fund)
- Enteral formulas covered through either HCAP for The Empire Plan or the NYSHIP HMO's prescription drug program (unless you have coverage through a union Employee Benefit Fund)
- Second opinion for cancer diagnosis

Please see the individual plan descriptions in this booklet to review the differences in coverage and out-of-pocket expenses. See plan documents for complete information on benefits.

* Some plans may exclude coverage for airborne ambulance services. Call The Empire Plan or your NYSHIP HMO for details.

The Empire Plan or a NYSHIP HMO

What's New?

All NYSHIP Plans

- Effective January 1, 2016, due to provisions of the *Emergency Medical Services and Surprise Bills* law, you may request a referral to receive services from an out-of-network provider, if a network provider is not available within a 30-mile radius or a 30-minute travel time from your home address or, if a provider with the appropriate level of training or experience is not accessible to treat your condition. If the request is approved, your out-of-pocket costs will be the same as when you use a network provider.

The Empire Plan

- Effective January 1, 2016, the Empire Plan Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program administrator, formerly known as ValueOptions, Inc., has rebranded and changed its name to Beacon Health Options, Inc. Benefits and provider networks will remain the same.
- For 2016, the maximum out-of-pocket limit for covered, in-network services under The Empire Plan will be \$6,850 for Individual coverage and \$13,700 for Family coverage, split between the Hospital, Medical/Surgical, Mental Health and Substance Abuse and Prescription Drug Programs.

See table below for more information about how out-of-pocket limits apply to each Empire Plan program.

NYSHIP HMOs

- As of January 1, 2016, Aetna will no longer be offered as a NYSHIP HMO. If you currently have coverage under Aetna, be sure to review your plan materials

and any other related NYSHIP mailings carefully and select The Empire Plan, a different NYSHIP HMO or the Opt-out Program during the Option Transfer Period.

- HMOBlue (Option #160) will expand its NYSHIP coverage area to include Hamilton County.
- MVP will expand its NYSHIP coverage area to include Clinton, Essex (Option #360) and Westchester (Option #340) counties.

The Empire Plan

The Empire Plan is a unique plan designed exclusively for New York State's public employees. The Empire Plan has many managed care features, but enrollees are not required to choose a primary care physician and do not need referrals to see specialists. However, certain services, such as hospital and skilled nursing facility admissions, certain outpatient radiological tests, certain mental health and substance abuse treatment /services, home care and some prescription drugs, require preapproval.

The New York State Department of Civil Service contracts with qualified companies to administer the Plan. The Empire Plan is self-insured.

The Empire Plan provides:

- Network and non-network inpatient and outpatient hospital coverage for medical, surgical and maternity care

| 2016 Empire Plan Maximum Out-of-Pocket Limits for In-Network Services | | | |
|---|----------------------------|--|----------|
| Coverage Type | Prescription Drug Program* | Hospital, Medical/Surgical and Mental Health and Substance Abuse Programs Combined | Total |
| Individual Coverage | \$2,400 | \$4,450 | \$6,850 |
| Family Coverage | \$4,800 | \$8,900 | \$13,700 |

*Does not apply to Medicare-primary enrollees or the dependents of Medicare-primary enrollees.

- Medical and surgical coverage under the Participating Provider Program or the Basic Medical Program and Basic Medical Provider Discount Program if you choose a nonparticipating provider
- Home care services, durable medical equipment and certain medical supplies (including diabetic and ostomy supplies), enteral formulas and diabetic shoes through the Home Care Advocacy Program (HCAP)
- Chiropractic treatment and physical therapy coverage through the Managed Physical Medicine Program
- Inpatient and outpatient mental health and substance abuse coverage
- Prescription drug coverage, unless it is provided by a union Employee Benefit Fund
- Center of Excellence Programs for cancer, transplants and infertility
- 24-hour Empire Plan NurseLineSM for health information and support
- Worldwide coverage

Providers

Under The Empire Plan, you can choose from over 250,000 participating physicians and other providers and facilities nationwide, and from more than 68,000 participating pharmacies across the United States or a mail order pharmacy.

Some Licensed Nurse Practitioners and Convenience Care Clinics participate with The Empire Plan. Be sure to confirm participation before receiving care.*

Under the Guaranteed Access benefit, The Empire Plan provides access to primary care physicians and certain specialists in New York State and specific counties in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Vermont that share a border with New York State.* **Note:** This benefit does not apply to enrollees of Participating Employers.

* **PIA enrollees:** Please refer to the *Health Insurance Choices for 2016 Supplement for PIA* for more information about your Empire Plan benefits.

Consider Cost

When considering cost, think about all your costs throughout the year, not just your biweekly paycheck deduction. Keep in mind out-of-pocket expenses you are likely to incur during the year, such as copayments for prescriptions and other services, coinsurance and any costs of using providers or services not covered under the plan. Watch for the *NYSHIP Rates & Deadlines for 2016* flyer that will be mailed to your home and posted on our web site, <https://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits>, as soon as rates are approved. (**Note:** Participating Employers will provide premium information to their employees). Along with this booklet, which provides copayment information, *NYSHIP Rates & Deadlines for 2016* will provide the information you need to determine your annual cost under each of the available plans.

The Empire Plan or a NYSHIP HMO

NYSHIP Health Maintenance Organizations

A Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) is a managed care system in a specific geographic area that provides comprehensive health care coverage through a network of providers.

- Coverage for services received outside the specified geographic area is limited. HMO enrollees who use doctors, hospitals or pharmacies outside the HMO's network must, in most cases, pay the full cost of services unless authorized by the HMO or in an emergency.
- Enrollees usually choose a primary care physician (PCP) from the HMO's network for routine medical care and for referrals to specialists and hospitals when medically necessary.
- HMO enrollees usually pay a copayment as a per-visit fee or coinsurance (percentage of cost).
- HMOs have no annual deductible.
- Referrals to network specialists may be required.
- Claim forms rarely are required.

All NYSHIP HMOs provide a wide range of health services. Each offers a specific package of hospital, medical, surgical and preventive care benefits. These services are provided or arranged by the PCP selected by the enrollee from the HMO's staff or physician network.

All NYSHIP HMOs cover inpatient and outpatient hospital care at a network hospital and prescription drug coverage.*

NYSHIP HMOs are organized in one of two ways:

- A Network HMO provides medical services through its own health centers, as well as outside participating physicians, medical groups and multispecialty medical centers.
- An Independent Practice Association (IPA) HMO provides medical services through private practice physicians who have contracted independently with the HMO to provide services in their offices.

Members enrolling in Network and IPA model HMOs may be able to select a doctor they already use if that doctor participates with the HMO.

See the individual HMO pages in this booklet for additional benefit information and to learn which HMOs serve your geographic area.

NYSHIP HMOs and Medicare

If you are Medicare primary, see page 6 for an explanation of how Medicare affects your NYSHIP HMO coverage.

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 (PPACA).

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

* For PE employees: Unless prescription drug coverage is provided through a union Employee Benefit Fund.

Making a Choice

Selecting a health insurance plan is an important personal decision. Only you know your family's lifestyle, health, budget and benefit preferences. Think about what health care you and your family might need during the next year. Review the plans and ask for more information. Here are several questions to consider:

- What is my premium for the health plan?
- What benefits does the plan have for office visits and other medical care? What is my share of the cost?
- What benefits does the plan have for prescription drugs? Will the medicine I take be covered under the plan? What is my share of the cost? What type of formulary does the plan have? Am I required to use the mail order pharmacy? (If you receive your drug coverage from a union Employee Benefit Fund, ask the Fund about your benefits).
- Does the plan cover special needs? How is durable medical equipment and other supplies covered? Are there any benefit limitations? (If you or one of your dependents has a medical or mental health/substance abuse condition requiring specific treatment or other special needs, check on coverage carefully. Don't assume you'll have coverage. Ask The Empire Plan program administrators or HMOs about your specific treatment).
- Are routine office visits and urgent care covered for out-of-area college students or is only emergency health care covered?
- What benefits are available for a catastrophic illness or injury?
- What choice of providers do I have under the plan? (Ask if the provider or facilities you use are covered). How would I consult a specialist if I needed one? Would I need a referral?
- How much paperwork is involved in the health plan? Do I have to fill out forms?

Things to Remember

- Gather as much information as possible.
- Consider the unique needs of yourself and your family.
- Compare the coverage and cost of your options.
- Look for a health plan that provides the best balance of cost and benefits for you.

How to Use the Choices Benefit Charts, Pages 18 – 43

The Empire Plan and NYSHIP HMOs are summarized in this booklet. The Empire Plan is available to all employees. NYSHIP HMOs are available to employees in areas where they live or work. Pick the plans that would serve your needs best and call each plan for details before you choose.

All NYSHIP plans must include a minimum level of benefits (see page 7). For example, The Empire Plan and all NYSHIP HMOs provide a paid-in-full benefit for medically necessary inpatient medical/surgical hospital care at network hospitals.

Use the charts to compare plans. The charts list out-of-pocket expenses and benefit limitations effective January 1, 2016. See plan documents for complete information on benefit limitations.

To generate an easy-to-read comparison of the benefits provided by each of the NYSHIP plans in your area, use the NYSHIP Plan Comparison tool, available on NYSHIP Online. Go to our homepage at <https://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits>. Select your group if prompted and then choose Health Benefits & Option Transfer. Click on Rates and Health Plan Choices and then NYSHIP Plan Comparison. Select your group and the counties in which you live and work. Then, check the box next to the plans you want to compare and click on Compare Plans to generate the comparison table.

Note: Most benefits described in this booklet are subject to medical necessity and may involve limitations or exclusions. Please refer to plan documents, or call the plans directly for details.

If You Decide to Change Your Plan

If you have reviewed the coverage and cost of your options and decide to change your plan:

- Submit a completed Health Insurance Transaction Form (PS-404) before the Option Transfer deadline announced in the rate flyer.
- Or change your option online using MyNYSHIP if you are an active employee of a New York State agency. **Note:** MyNYSHIP cannot be used to elect the Opt-out Program (See page 15).

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Will I be covered for care I receive away from home?</p> | <p>The Empire Plan: Yes. The Empire Plan provides worldwide coverage.¹ However, access to network benefits is not guaranteed.</p> <p>NYSHIP HMOs: Under an HMO, you are always covered for emergency care. Some HMOs may provide coverage for routine care outside the HMO service area. Some HMOs provide coverage for college students away from home if the care is urgent or if follow-up care has been preauthorized. See the Out-of-Area benefit description on each HMO page for more information or contact the HMO directly.</p> |
| <p>If I am diagnosed with a serious illness, can I see a physician or go to a hospital that specializes in my illness?</p> | <p>The Empire Plan: Yes. You can use the specialist of your choice. You have Basic Medical Program benefits for nonparticipating providers and Basic Medical Provider Discount Program benefits for nonparticipating providers who are part of The Empire Plan MultiPlan group. (See page 21 for more information on the Basic Medical Provider Discount Program). Your hospital benefits will differ depending on whether you choose a network or non-network hospital. (See page 13 for details).</p> <p>NYSHIP HMOs: You should expect to choose a participating physician and a participating hospital. Under certain circumstances, you may be able to receive a referral to a specialist care center outside the network.</p> |
| <p>Can I be sure I will not need to pay more than my copayment when I receive medical services?</p> | <p>The Empire Plan: Your copayment should be your only expense if you receive medically necessary and covered services and you use a participating provider;¹</p> <p>NYSHIP HMOs: As long as you receive medically necessary and covered services, follow HMO requirements and receive the appropriate referral (if required), your copayment or coinsurance should be your only expense.</p> |

¹ The Empire Plan does not guarantee that participating providers are available in all specialties or geographic locations.

HMOs: Similarities and Differences

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Can I use the hospital of my choice?</p> | <p>The Empire Plan: Yes. You have coverage worldwide, but your benefits differ depending on whether you choose a network or non-network hospital. Your benefits are highest at network hospitals participating in the BlueCross and BlueShield Association BlueCard® PPO Program, or for mental health or substance abuse care in the Beacon Health Options network.</p> <p>Network hospital inpatient: Paid-in-full hospitalization benefits.</p> <p>Network hospital outpatient and emergency care: Subject to network copayments.</p> <p>Non-network hospital inpatient stays and outpatient services: 10 percent coinsurance for inpatient stays and the greater of 10 percent coinsurance or \$75 for outpatient services, up to the combined annual coinsurance maximum per enrollee, per enrolled spouse or domestic partner and per all enrolled dependent children combined (see page 20).</p> <p>NYSHIP HMOs: Except in an emergency, you generally do not have coverage at non-network hospitals unless authorized by the HMO.</p> |
| <p>What kind of care is available for physical therapy and chiropractic care?</p> | <p>The Empire Plan: You have guaranteed access to unlimited medically necessary care when you follow Plan requirements.</p> <p>NYSHIP HMOs: Coverage is available for a specified number of days/visits each year, as long as you follow the HMO's requirements.</p> |
| <p>What if I need durable medical equipment, medical supplies or home nursing?</p> | <p>The Empire Plan: You have guaranteed, paid-in-full access to medically necessary home care, equipment and supplies² through the Home Care Advocacy Program (HCAP) when preauthorized and arranged by the Plan.</p> <p>NYSHIP HMOs: Benefits are available and vary depending on the HMO. Benefits may require a greater percentage of cost-sharing.</p> |

² Diabetic shoes have an annual maximum benefit of \$500.

Note: These responses are generic and highlight only general differences between The Empire Plan and NYSHIP HMOs. Details for each plan are available on individual plan pages beginning on page 18 of this booklet, in the *Empire Plan Certificate* (available from your HBA) and in the HMO contract (available from each HMO).

Questions & Answers

Q: Can I join The Empire Plan or any NYSHIP-approved HMO?

A: The Empire Plan is available worldwide, wherever you live or work. To enroll or continue enrollment in a NYSHIP-approved HMO, you must live or work in that HMO's service area. If you move permanently out of and/or no longer work in your HMO's service area, you must change options. See Plans by County on pages 16 and 17 and the individual HMO pages in this booklet to check the counties each HMO will serve in 2016.

Q: How do I find out which providers and hospitals participate? What if my doctor or other provider leaves my plan?

A: Check with your providers directly to see whether they participate in The Empire Plan or in a NYSHIP HMO.

For Empire Plan provider information:

- Use the online provider directories at <https://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits>. Select your group if prompted, and then click on Find a Provider. **Note:** This is the most up-to-date source for provider information.
- Ask your HBA for The Empire Plan *Participating Provider Directory*.
- Call The Empire Plan toll free at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and select the appropriate program for the type of provider you need.

For HMO provider information:

- Visit the web sites for provider information (web site addresses are provided on the individual HMO pages in this booklet).
- Call the telephone numbers on the HMO pages in this booklet. Ask which providers participate and which hospitals are affiliated.

If you choose a provider who does not participate in your plan, check carefully whether benefits are available to you. Ask if you need authorization to have the provider's services covered. In most circumstances, HMOs do not provide benefits for

services by nonparticipating providers or hospitals. Under The Empire Plan, you have benefits for participating and nonparticipating providers.

Note: You cannot change your plan outside the Option Transfer Period because your provider no longer participates.

Q: I have a preexisting condition. Will I have coverage if I change options?

A: Yes. Under NYSHIP, you can change your option and still have coverage for a preexisting condition. There are no preexisting condition exclusions in any NYSHIP plan. However, coverage and exclusions differ. Ask the plan you are considering about coverage for your condition.

Q: What if I retire in 2016 and become eligible for Medicare?

A: Regardless of which option you choose, as a retiree, you and your dependent must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B when either of you first becomes eligible for primary Medicare coverage (See page 6). Please note, especially, that your NYSHIP benefits become secondary to Medicare and that your benefits may change.

Q: I am a COBRA dependent in a Family plan. Can I switch to Individual coverage and select a different health plan from the rest of my family?

A: Yes. As a COBRA dependent, you may elect to change to Individual coverage in a plan different from the enrollee's Family coverage. During the Option Transfer Period, you may enroll in The Empire Plan or choose any NYSHIP-approved HMO in the area where you live or work.

Q: I elected the Opt-out Program in 2015. Can I switch to NYSHIP coverage for 2016?

A: Yes, all options are available during the Option Transfer Period. (See Making a Choice, page 11). However, if you decide to stay in the Opt-out Program, you must reenroll for 2016.

The Opt-Out Program — NYSHIP Code #700

An Opt-out Program is available to eligible employees who have other employer-sponsored group health benefits in the following groups: APSU, C-82, CSEA, DC-37, M/C; Legislature, NYSCOPBA, PEF, PBA-S, PBA-T, UUP and UCS. If eligible, you may opt out of NYSHIP coverage in exchange for an incentive payment. **Note:** The State Opt-out Program is not available to employees of Participating Employers; however, a Participating Employer may offer a similar option.

The annual incentive payment is \$1,000 for opting out of Individual coverage or \$3,000 for opting out of Family coverage. The incentive payment is prorated and credited in your biweekly paycheck throughout the year (payable only when an employee is eligible for NYSHIP coverage at the employee share of the premium). **Note:** Opt-out incentive payments increase your taxable income.

Enrollment in the Opt-out Program does not continue automatically from year to year. To be eligible for the incentive payments, you must enroll during each Option Transfer Period and attest to having other coverage for the coming plan year.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the Opt-out Program, you must:

- be a member of a group eligible for the Opt-out Program,
- have been enrolled in the Opt-out Program for the prior plan year or enrolled in a NYSHIP health plan by April 1, 2015 (or on your first date of NYSHIP eligibility if that date is later than April 1), and
- remain continuously enrolled while eligible for the employee share of the premium through the end of 2015.

To qualify for the Opt-out Program, you must be covered under an employer-sponsored group health insurance plan through other employment of your own or a plan that your spouse, domestic partner or parent has as the result of his or her employment. New York State employees cannot opt out of NYSHIP if they are covered under NYSHIP as a dependent through another NYS employee.

According to NYSHIP rules, an individual cannot be enrolled in two NYSHIP options in his or her own right.

Since the Opt-out Program is considered a NYSHIP option, an individual cannot opt out through one employer and be enrolled in NYSHIP health benefits in his or her own right through his or her other employer.

If the employee is covered as a dependent on another NYSHIP policy through a local government or public entity, he or she is only eligible for the Individual Opt-out incentive amount (\$1,000).

Make sure the other employer-sponsored plan will permit you to enroll as a dependent. You are responsible for making sure your other coverage is in effect during the period you opt out of NYSHIP.

Note: Participation in the Opt-out Program satisfies the requirement of enrollment in NYSHIP at the time of your retirement. The Opt-out Program is not available to retirees.

Electing To Opt Out

If you are currently enrolled in NYSHIP and wish to participate in the Opt-out Program, you must elect to opt out during the annual Option Transfer Period and attest to and provide documentation of your other employer-sponsored group health benefits for the next plan year.

To elect the Opt-out Program, you must submit a completed and signed NYS Health Insurance Transaction Form (PS-404) and an Opt-out Attestation Form (PS-409). Your NYSHIP coverage will terminate at the end of the plan year and the incentive payments will begin with the first pay period affecting coverage for 2016.

Once enrolled in the Opt-out Program, you are not eligible for the incentive payment during any period that you do not meet the requirements for the State contribution to the cost of your NYSHIP coverage. Additionally, if you are receiving the opt-out incentive for Family coverage and your last dependent loses NYSHIP eligibility, you will only be eligible for the Individual payment from that date forward.

Reminder: All options are available to you during the Option Transfer Period. If you are currently enrolled in the Opt-out Program, you may choose other NYSHIP coverage or elect to opt out again for 2016.

Plans by County

The Empire Plan

The Empire Plan is available to all enrollees in the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP). You may choose The Empire Plan regardless of where you live or work. Coverage is worldwide. See pages 18-27 for a summary of The Empire Plan.

| Page in Choices | 18 | 28 | 30 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 38 | 38 | 40 | 42 | 42 | 42 | 42 | 42 |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|---|--------|--------|--------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------|-----|-----|---------|---------|---------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| | The Empire Plan | Blue Choice* | BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York* | CDPHP* | CDPHP* | CDPHP* | Empire BlueCross BlueShield HMO* | Empire BlueCross BlueShield HMO* | Empire BlueCross BlueShield HMO* | HIP* | HIP | HIP | HMOBlue | HMOBlue | Independent Health* | MVP* | MVP* | MVP* | MVP* | MVP |
| NYSHIP Code | 001 | 066 | 067 | 063 | 300 | 310 | 280 | 290 | 320 | 050 | 220 | 350 | 072 | 160 | 059 | 058 | 060 | 330 | 340 | 360 |
| Albany | • | | | • | | | • | | | | • | | | | | | • | | | |
| Allegany | • | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | | |
| Bronx | • | | | | | | | • | | • | | | | | | | | | | |
| Broome | • | | | | • | | | | | | | | • | | | | | • | | |
| Cattaraugus | • | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | | |
| Cayuga | • | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | | • | | |
| Chautauqua | • | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | | |
| Chemung | • | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | | | | |
| Chenango | • | | | | • | | | | | | | | | • | | | | • | | |
| Clinton | • | | | | | | • | | | | | | | • | | | | | | • |
| Columbia | • | | | • | | | • | | | | • | | | | | | • | | | |
| Cortland | • | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | | • | | |
| Delaware | • | | | | | • | • | | | | | • | | • | | | | • | | |
| Dutchess | • | | | | | • | | | • | | | • | | | | | | | • | |
| Erie | • | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | | |
| Essex | • | | | | • | | • | | | | | | | • | | | | | | • |
| Franklin | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | | | • |
| Fulton | • | | | • | | | • | | | | | | | • | | | • | | | |
| Genesee | • | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | • | • | | | | |
| Greene | • | | | • | | | • | | | | • | | | | | | • | | | |
| Hamilton | • | | | | • | | | | | | | | • | | | | • | | | |
| Herkimer | • | | | | • | | | | | | | | • | | | | | • | | |
| Jefferson | • | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | | • | | |
| Kings | • | | | | | | | • | | • | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lewis | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | • | | |
| Livingston | • | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | |
| Madison | • | | | | • | | | | | | | | | • | | | | • | | |
| Monroe | • | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | |
| Montgomery | • | | | • | | | • | | | | | | | • | | | • | | | |
| Nassau | • | | | | | | | • | | • | | | | | | | | | | |
| New York | • | | | | | | | • | | • | | | | | | | | | | |

* Medicare-primary NYSHIP enrollees will be enrolled in this HMO's Medicare Advantage plan. For more information about NYSHIP Medicare Advantage plans, ask your HBA for a copy of 2016 Choices for Retirees.

Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs)

Most NYSHIP enrollees have a choice among HMOs. You may enroll, or continue to be enrolled, in any NYSHIP-approved HMO that serves the area where you live or work. You may not be enrolled in an HMO outside your area. This list will help you determine which HMOs are available by county. The pages indicated will describe benefits available from each HMO.

| Page in Choices | 18 | 28 | 30 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 38 | 38 | 40 | 42 | 42 | 42 | 42 | 42 |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|---|--------|--------|--------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------|-----|-----|---------|---------|---------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| | The Empire Plan | Blue Choice* | BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York* | CDPHP* | CDPHP* | CDPHP* | Empire BlueCross BlueShield HMO* | Empire BlueCross BlueShield HMO* | Empire BlueCross BlueShield HMO* | HIP* | HIP | HIP | HMOBlue | HMOBlue | Independent Health* | MVP* | MVP* | MVP* | MVP* | MVP |
| NYSHIP Code | 001 | 066 | 067 | 063 | 300 | 310 | 280 | 290 | 320 | 050 | 220 | 350 | 072 | 160 | 059 | 058 | 060 | 330 | 340 | 360 |
| Niagara | • | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | | |
| Oneida | • | | | | • | | | | | | | | | • | | | | • | | |
| Onondaga | • | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | | • | | |
| Ontario | • | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | |
| Orange | • | | | | | • | | | • | | | • | | | | | | | • | |
| Orleans | • | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | • | • | | | | |
| Oswego | • | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | | • | | |
| Otsego | • | | | | • | | | | | | | | | • | | | | • | | |
| Putnam | • | | | | | | | | • | | | • | | | | | | | • | |
| Queens | • | | | | | | | • | | • | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rensselaer | • | | | • | | | • | | | | • | | | | | | • | | | |
| Richmond | • | | | | | | | • | | • | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rockland | • | | | | | | | • | | | | | | | | | | | • | |
| Saratoga | • | | | • | | | • | | | | • | | | | | | • | | | |
| Schenectady | • | | | • | | | • | | | | • | | | | | | • | | | |
| Schoharie | • | | | • | | | • | | | | | | | | | | • | | | |
| Schuyler | • | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | | | | |
| Seneca | • | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | |
| St. Lawrence | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | | | • |
| Steuben | • | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | • | | | | |
| Suffolk | • | | | | | | | • | | • | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sullivan | • | | | | | | | | • | | | • | | | | | | | • | |
| Tioga | • | | | | • | | | | | | | | • | | | | | • | | |
| Tompkins | • | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | | • | | |
| Ulster | • | | | | | • | | | • | | | • | | | | | | | • | |
| Warren | • | | | • | | | • | | | | • | | | | | | • | | | |
| Washington | • | | | • | | | • | | | | • | | | | | | • | | | |
| Wayne | • | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | |
| Westchester | • | | | | | | | • | | • | | | | | | | | | • | |
| Wyoming | • | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | • | • | | | | |
| Yates | • | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | |

* Medicare-primary NYSHIP enrollees will be enrolled in this HMO's Medicare Advantage plan. For more information about NYSHIP Medicare Advantage plans, ask your HBA for a copy of 2016 Choices for Retirees.

The Empire Plan — NYSHIP Code #001

This section summarizes benefits available under each portion of The Empire Plan as of January 1, 2016.¹ (**Note:** PIA enrollees, refer to *Health Insurance Choices for 2016 Supplement for PIA* in place of pages 18-43 in this document.) You may also visit <https://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits> or call toll free 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447). Call to connect to:

Medical/Surgical Program

UnitedHealthcare

Medical and surgical coverage through:

- **Participating Provider Program** – More than 250,000 physicians and other providers participate; certain services are subject to a \$20 copayment.
- **Basic Medical Program** – If you use a nonparticipating provider, the Program considers up to 80 percent of usual and customary charges for covered services after the combined annual deductible is met. After the combined annual coinsurance maximum is met, the Plan pays up to 100 percent of usual and customary charges for covered services. See Cost Sharing (beginning on page 20) for additional information.
- **Basic Medical Provider Discount Program** – If you are Empire Plan primary and use a nonparticipating provider who is part of The Empire Plan MultiPlan group, your out-of-pocket costs may be lower (see page 21).

Home Care Advocacy Program (HCAP) – Paid-in-full benefit for home care, durable medical equipment and certain medical supplies (including diabetic and ostomy supplies), enteral formulas and diabetic shoes. Diabetic shoes have an annual maximum benefit of \$500. Guaranteed access to network benefits nationwide. Limited non-network benefits available. (See the *Empire Plan Certificate/Reports* for details).

Managed Physical Medicine Program – Chiropractic treatment and physical therapy through a Managed Physical Network (MPN) provider are subject to a \$20 copayment. Unlimited network benefits when medically

necessary. Guaranteed access to network benefits nationwide. Non-network benefits available.

Under the **Benefits Management Program**, you must call the Medical/Surgical Program for Prospective Procedure Review before an elective (scheduled) Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Magnetic Resonance Angiography (MRA), Computerized Tomography (CT), Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scan or Nuclear Medicine test, unless you are having the test as an inpatient in a hospital. (See the *Empire Plan Certificate* for details).

When arranged by the Medical/Surgical Program, a voluntary, paid-in-full specialist consultant evaluation is available. Voluntary outpatient Medical Case Management is available to help coordinate services for catastrophic and complex cases.

Hospital Program

Empire BlueCross BlueShield

The following benefit level applies for covered services received at a BlueCross and BlueShield Association BlueCard® PPO **network hospital**:

- Medical or surgical inpatient stays are covered at no cost to you.
- Hospital outpatient and emergency care are subject to network copayments.
- When you use a network hospital, anesthesiology, pathology and radiology, provider charges for covered hospital services are paid in full under the Medical/Surgical Program if The Empire Plan provides your primary coverage.
- Certain covered outpatient hospital services provided at network hospital extension clinics are subject to hospital outpatient and emergency care copayments.
- Except as noted above, physician charges received in a hospital setting will be paid in full if the provider is a Participating Provider under the Medical/Surgical Program. Physician charges for covered services received from a non-network provider will be paid in accordance with the Basic Medical portion of the Medical/Surgical Program.

¹ These benefits are subject to medical necessity and to limitations and exclusions described in the *Empire Plan Certificate* and *Empire Plan Reports/Certificate Amendments*.

The following benefit level applies for hospital services received at **non-network hospitals** (for *Empire Plan-primary enrollees only*²):

- Non-network hospital inpatient stays and outpatient services: 10 percent coinsurance for inpatient stays and the greater of 10 percent coinsurance or \$75 for outpatient services, up to the combined annual coinsurance maximum per enrollee, per enrolled spouse or domestic partner, per all enrolled dependent children combined (see page 20).

The Empire Plan will approve network benefits for hospital services received at a non-network facility if:

- Your hospital care is emergency or urgent.
- No network facility can provide the medically necessary services.
- You do not have access to a network facility within 30 miles of your residence.
- Another insurer or Medicare provides your primary coverage (pays first).

Preadmission Certification Requirements

Under the Benefits Management Program, if The Empire Plan is your primary coverage, you must call the Hospital Program for certification of any inpatient stay:

- before a maternity or scheduled (nonemergency) hospital admission,
- within 48 hours or as soon as reasonably possible after an emergency or urgent hospital admission, and
- before admission or transfer to a skilled nursing facility.

If you do not follow the preadmission certification requirement for the Hospital Program, you must pay:

- a \$200 hospital penalty if it is determined any portion was medically necessary, and
- all charges for any day's care determined not to be medically necessary.

Voluntary inpatient Medical Case Management is available to help coordinate services for catastrophic and complex cases.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program

Beacon Health Options Inc.

The Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program (MHSA) offers two levels of benefits. If you call the MHSA Program before you receive services and follow their recommendations, you receive:

Network Benefits (unlimited when medically necessary)

- Inpatient (paid in full)
- Crisis intervention (up to three visits per crisis paid in full; after the third visit, the \$20 copayment per visit applies)
- Outpatient including office visits, home-based or telephone counseling and nurse practitioner services (\$20 copayment)
- Outpatient rehabilitation to an approved Structured Outpatient Rehabilitation Program for substance abuse (\$20 copayment)

If you do **NOT** follow the requirements for network coverage, you receive:

Non-network Benefits³ (unlimited when medically necessary)

- For Practitioner Services: the MHSA Program will consider up to 80 percent of usual and customary charges for covered outpatient practitioner services after you meet the combined annual deductible per enrollee, per enrolled spouse or domestic partner, per all enrolled dependent children combined. After the combined annual coinsurance maximum is reached per enrollee, per enrolled spouse or domestic partner, per all enrolled dependent children combined, the Plan pays up to 100 percent of usual and customary charges for covered services (see page 20).
- For Approved Facility Services: You are responsible for 10 percent of covered billed charges up to the combined annual coinsurance maximum per enrollee, per enrolled spouse or domestic partner, per all enrolled dependent children combined. After

² If Medicare or another plan provides primary coverage, you receive network benefits for covered services at both network and non-network hospitals.

³ You are responsible for ensuring that MHSA Program certification is received for care obtained from a non-network practitioner or facility.

The Empire Plan — NYSHIP Code #001

the coinsurance maximum is met, the Plan pays 100 percent of billed charges for covered services (See page 20).

- Outpatient treatment sessions for family members of an alcoholic, alcohol abuser or substance abuser are covered for a maximum of 20 visits per year for all family members combined.

Empire Plan Cost Sharing

Plan Providers

Under The Empire Plan, benefits are available for covered services when you use a participating or nonparticipating provider. However, your share of the cost of covered services depends on whether the provider you use is participating under the Plan.

If you use an Empire Plan participating or network provider or facility, you pay a copayment for certain services; some are covered at no cost to you. The provider or facility files the claim and is reimbursed by The Empire Plan.

You are guaranteed access to network benefits when you contact the program before receiving services and follow program requirements for:

- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program services;
- Managed Physical Medicine Program services (physical therapy and chiropractic care); and
- Home Care Advocacy Program (HCAP) services (including durable medical equipment).

2016 Annual Maximum Out-of-Pocket Limit

Your maximum out-of-pocket expenses for in-network covered services will be \$4,450 for Individual coverage and \$8,900 for Family coverage for Hospital, Medical/Surgical and Mental Health and Substance Abuse programs, combined. Once you reach the limit, you will have no additional copayments.

If you use a nonparticipating provider or non-network facility, benefits for covered services are subject to a deductible and/or coinsurance.

Combined Annual Deductible

For medical/surgical and mental health and substance abuse services, The Empire Plan has a combined annual deductible of \$1,000 per enrollee, \$1,000 per

enrolled spouse/domestic partner and \$1,000 per all dependent children combined. The combined annual deductible must be met before covered services under the Basic Medical Program and non-network expenses under both the Home Care Advocacy Program (HCAP) and Mental Health and Substance Abuse (MHSA) Program can be reimbursed. The Managed Physical Medicine Program has a separate \$250 deductible per enrollee, \$250 per enrolled spouse/domestic partner and \$250 per all dependent children combined that is not included in the combined annual deductible.

The \$1,000 combined annual deductible amount will be reduced to \$500 per calendar year for employees in or equated to Salary Grade 6 or below on January 1, 2016. **Note:** This reduction is not available to Judges and Justices or employees of Participating Employers.

After you satisfy the combined annual deductible, The Empire Plan pays 80 percent of the usual and customary charge for the Basic Medical Program and non-network practitioner services for the MHSA Program, 50 percent of the network allowance for covered services for the non-network HCAP services and 90 percent of the billed charges for covered services for non-network approved facility services for the MHSA Program. You are responsible for the remaining 20 percent coinsurance and all charges in excess of the usual and customary charge for Basic Medical Program and non-network practitioner services and 10 percent for non-network MHSA-approved facility services. There is no coinsurance maximum for HCAP services.

Combined Annual Coinsurance Maximum

The Empire Plan has a combined annual coinsurance maximum of \$3,000 per enrollee, \$3,000 per enrolled spouse/domestic partner and \$3,000 per all dependent children combined. After you reach the combined annual coinsurance maximum, you will be reimbursed up to 100 percent of the usual and customary charges. You are responsible for paying the provider and will be reimbursed by the Plan for covered charges. You are also responsible for paying all charges in excess of the usual and customary charge.

The \$3,000 combined annual coinsurance maximum will be reduced to \$1,500 per calendar year for employees in or equated to Salary Grade 6 or below.

Note: This reduction is not available to Judges and Justices or employees of Participating Employers.

The combined annual coinsurance maximum will be shared among the Basic Medical Program and non-network coverage under the Hospital Program and Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program. The Managed Physical Medicine Program and Home Care Advocacy Program do not have a coinsurance maximum.

Basic Medical Provider Discount Program

If you are Empire Plan primary, The Empire Plan also includes a program to reduce your out-of-pocket costs when you use a nonparticipating provider. The Empire Plan Basic Medical Provider Discount Program offers discounts from certain physicians and providers who are not part of The Empire Plan participating provider network. These providers are part of the nationwide MultiPlan group, a provider organization contracted with UnitedHealthcare. Empire Plan Basic Medical Program provisions apply and you must meet the combined annual deductible.

Providers in the Basic Medical Provider Discount Program accept a discounted fee for covered services. Your 20 percent coinsurance is based on the lower of the discounted fee or the usual and customary charge. The provider submits your claims and UnitedHealthcare pays The Empire Plan portion of the provider fee directly to the provider if the services qualify for the Basic Medical Provider Discount Program. Your Explanation of Benefits, which details claims payments, shows the discounted amount applied to billed charges.

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 The Empire Plan toll free at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447), choose the Medical Program and ask a representative for help. You can also visit our web site at <https://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits>. Select your group if prompted, and then click on Find a Provider.

You receive the maximum plan benefits when you use participating providers. For more information, read *Reporting On Network Benefits*. You can find this publication at <https://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits> or ask your HBA for a copy.

The Empire Plan Center of Excellence Programs

The Center of Excellence for Cancer Program includes paid-in-full coverage for cancer-related expenses received through Cancer Resource Services (CRS). CRS is a nationwide network including many of the nation's leading cancer centers. The enhanced benefits, including a travel allowance, are available only when you are enrolled in the Program.

The Center of Excellence for Transplants Program provides paid-in-full coverage for services covered under the Program and performed at a qualified Center of Excellence. The enhanced benefits, including a travel allowance, are available only when you are enrolled in the Program and The Empire Plan is your primary coverage. Precertification is required.

Infertility Centers of Excellence are a select group of participating providers contracted by UnitedHealthcare and recognized as leaders in reproductive medical technology and infertility procedures. Benefits are paid in full, subject to the lifetime maximum benefit of \$50,000 per covered individual. A travel allowance is available. Precertification is required.

For details on The Empire Plan Centers of Excellence Programs, see the *Empire Plan Certificate/Reports and Reporting On Centers of Excellence* available at <https://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits> or from your HBA.

Prescription Drug Program

CVS/caremark, Inc.

The Prescription Drug Program does not apply to those who have drug coverage through a union Employee Benefit Fund.

- When you use a network pharmacy, the mail order pharmacy or the designated specialty pharmacy for up to a 30-day supply of a covered drug, you pay a \$5 copayment for Level 1 or most generic drugs, a \$25 copayment for Level 2, preferred drugs or compound drugs and a \$45 copayment for Level 3, certain generic drugs or non-preferred drugs.
 - For a 31- to 90-day supply of a covered drug through a network pharmacy, you pay a \$10 copayment for Level 1 or most generic drugs, a \$50 copayment for Level 2, preferred drugs or compound drugs and a \$90 copayment for Level 3, certain generic drugs or non-preferred drugs.
 - For a 31- to 90-day supply of a covered drug through the mail order pharmacy or the designated specialty pharmacy, you pay a \$5 copayment for Level 1 or most generic drugs, a \$50 copayment for Level 2, preferred drugs or compound drugs and a \$90 copayment for Level 3, certain generic drugs or non-preferred drugs.
 - Oral chemotherapy drugs for the treatment of cancer do not require a copayment.
 - Tamoxifen and Raloxifene, when prescribed for the primary prevention of breast cancer, do not require a copayment. In addition, generic oral contraceptive drugs and devices or brand-name drugs/devices without a generic equivalent (single-source brand-name drugs/devices) do not require a copayment. The copayment waivers for these drugs will only be provided if the drug is filled at a Network Pharmacy.
 - Additionally, certain preventive adult vaccines, when administered at a pharmacy that participates in the CVS/caremark National Vaccine Network, do not require a copayment.
- For certain maintenance medications, you are required to fill at least two 30-day supplies using your Empire Plan Prescription Drug Program benefits before a supply for greater than 30 days will be covered. If you attempt to fill a prescription for a maintenance medication for more than a 30-day supply at a network or mail order pharmacy, the last 180 days of your prescription history will be reviewed to determine whether at least 60 days' worth of the drug was previously dispensed. If not, only a 30-day fill will be approved. The program is also referred to as the New to You Program.
 - When you fill a prescription for a covered brand-name drug that has a generic equivalent, you pay the Level 3 or non-preferred copayment plus the difference in cost between the brand-name drug and the generic equivalent (or "ancillary charge"), not to exceed the full retail cost of the drug, unless the brand-name drug has been placed on Level 1 of the Flexible Formulary. Exceptions apply. Please contact The Empire Plan Prescription Drug Program at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) for more information.
 - The Empire Plan has a flexible formulary that excludes certain prescription drugs from coverage.
 - Prior authorization is required for certain drugs.
 - A pharmacist is available 24 hours a day to answer questions about your prescriptions.
 - You can use a nonparticipating pharmacy or pay cash at a participating pharmacy (instead of using your Empire Plan Benefit Card) and fill out a claim form for reimbursement. In almost all cases, you will not be reimbursed the total amount you paid for the prescription and your out-of-pocket expenses may exceed the usual copayment amount. To reduce your out-of-pocket expenses, use your Empire Plan Benefit Card whenever possible.

2016 Annual Maximum Out-Of-Pocket Limit:*

Your annual maximum out-of-pocket expenses for covered drugs received from a network pharmacy will be \$2,400 for Individual coverage and \$4,800 for Family coverage. Once you reach the limit, you will have no additional copayments for prescription drugs.

* The annual maximum out-of-pocket limit does not apply to Empire Plan Medicare Rx.

Specialty Pharmacy

The Prescription Drug Program's Specialty Pharmacy Program offers enhanced services to individuals using specialty drugs, such as those used to treat complex conditions and those that require special handling, special administration or intensive patient monitoring. (The complete list of specialty drugs included in the Specialty Pharmacy Program is available on NYSHIP Online. Go to <http://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits>. Choose your group, then Using Your Benefits, and then Specialty Pharmacy Drug List).

The Program provides enrollees with enhanced services that include disease and drug education, compliance management, side-effect management, safety management, expedited, scheduled delivery of medications at no additional charge, refill reminder calls and all necessary supplies, such as needles and syringes, applicable to the medication.

CVS/caremark Specialty Pharmacy is the designated pharmacy for the Specialty Pharmacy Program. Under the Specialty Pharmacy Program, you are covered for an initial 30-day fill of most specialty medication at a retail pharmacy, but all subsequent fills must be obtained through the designated specialty pharmacy, CVS/caremark Specialty Pharmacy. When CVS/caremark dispenses a specialty medication, the applicable mail order copayment is charged. Specialty drugs can be ordered through the Specialty Pharmacy Program using the CVS/caremark Mail Service Order Form. To request mail order forms or refills or to speak to a specialty-trained pharmacist or nurse, call The Empire Plan toll free at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) between 7:30 a.m. and 9 p.m., Monday through Friday, Eastern time. Choose the Prescription Drug Program and ask to speak with Specialty Customer Care.

Medicare-primary enrollees and dependents: If you are or will be Medicare primary in 2016, ask your HBA for a copy of *2016 Choices for Retirees* for information about your coverage under Empire Plan Medicare Rx, a Medicare Part D prescription drug program.

The Empire Plan NurseLineSM

Call The Empire Plan toll free at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and choose The Empire Plan NurseLineSM for health information and support. For recorded messages on more than 1,000 topics in the Health Information Library, enter PIN number 335, then say one or two words about the information you are looking for or enter a four-digit topic code from The Empire Plan NurseLine brochure. If you do not have your brochure, ask the NurseLine to send you one.

Representatives are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Empire Plan Benefits Are Available Worldwide

The Empire Plan gives you the freedom to choose a participating provider or a nonparticipating provider.

Teletypewriter (TTY) Numbers

For callers who use a TTY device because of a hearing or speech disability. All TTY numbers are toll free.

Medical/Surgical Program

TTY only:.....1-888-697-9054

Hospital Program

TTY only:.....1-800-241-6894

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program

TTY only:.....1-855-643-1476

Prescription Drug Program

TTY only:.....1-800-863-5488

The Empire Plan

For employees of the State of New York who are unrepresented or in negotiating units that have awards/agreements with New York State effective 10/1/11 or later, Participating Employers, their enrolled dependents and for COBRA and Young Adult Option Enrollees with their NYSHIP benefits. (PIA enrollees: Please refer to the *Health Insurance Choices for 2016 Supplement for PIA* for information about your Empire Plan benefits.)

| Benefits | Network Hospital Benefits^{1,2} | Participating Provider² | Nonparticipating Provider |
|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Office Visits² | | \$20 per visit | Basic Medical ³ |
| Specialty Office Visits² | | \$20 per visit | Basic Medical ³ |
| Diagnostic Services²: | | | |
| Radiology | \$30 ⁴ or \$40 per outpatient visit | \$20 per visit | Basic Medical ³ |
| Lab Tests | \$30 ⁴ or \$40 per outpatient visit | \$20 per visit | Basic Medical ³ |
| Pathology | No copayment | \$20 per visit | Basic Medical ³ |
| EKG/EEG | \$30 ⁴ or \$40 per outpatient visit | \$20 per visit | Basic Medical ³ |
| Radiation, Chemotherapy, Dialysis | No copayment | No copayment | Basic Medical ³ |
| Women's Health Care/OB GYN²: | | | |
| Screenings and Maternity-Related Lab Tests | \$30 ⁴ or \$40 per outpatient visit | \$20 per visit | Basic Medical ³ |
| Mammograms | \$30 ⁴ or \$40 per outpatient visit | \$20 per visit | Basic Medical ³ |
| Pre/Postnatal Visits and Well-Woman Exams | | \$20 per visit | Basic Medical ³ |
| Bone Density Tests | \$30 ⁴ or \$40 per outpatient visit | \$20 per visit | Basic Medical ³ |
| Breastfeeding Services and Equipment | | No copayment for pre/postnatal counseling and equipment purchase from a participating provider; one double-electric breast pump per birth | |
| Family Planning Services | | \$20 per visit | Basic Medical ³ |
| Infertility Services | \$30 ⁴ or \$40 per outpatient visit | \$20 per visit; no copayment at designated Centers of Excellence ⁵ | Basic Medical ³ |
| Contraceptive Drugs and Devices | | \$20 per visit; no copayment for certain FDA-approved oral contraception methods (including outpatient surgical implantation) and counseling | Basic Medical ³ |

| Benefits | Network Hospital Benefits^{1,2} | Participating Provider² | Nonparticipating Provider |
|---|--|---|--|
| Inpatient Hospital Surgery | No copayment ⁶ | No copayment | Basic Medical ³ |
| Outpatient Surgery | \$40 ⁴ or \$60 per visit | \$20 per visit ⁷ | Basic Medical ³ |
| Emergency Room | \$60 ⁴ or \$70 per visit ⁸ | No copayment | Basic Medical ^{3,9} |
| Urgent Care | \$30 ⁴ or \$40 per outpatient visit ¹⁰ | \$20 per visit | Basic Medical ³ |
| Ambulance | No copayment ¹¹ | \$35 per trip ¹² | \$35 per trip ¹² |
| Mental Health Practitioner Services | | \$20 per visit | Applicable annual deductible, ³ 80% of usual and customary; after applicable coinsurance max, ³ 100% of usual and customary (See pages 20-21 for details). |
| Approved Facility Mental Health Services | | No copayment | 90% of billed charges; after applicable coinsurance max, ³ covered in full (See pages 20-21 for details). |
| Outpatient Drug/Alcohol Rehabilitation | | \$20 per visit to approved Structured Outpatient Rehabilitation Program | Applicable annual deductible, ³ 80% of usual and customary; after applicable coinsurance max, ³ 100% of usual and customary (See pages 20-21 for details). |

¹ Inpatient stays at network hospitals are paid in full. Provider charges are covered under the Medical/Surgical Program. Non-network hospital coverage provided subject to coinsurance (see page 20).

² Copayment waived for preventive services under PPACA. See <http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/rights/preventive-care> or NYSHIP Online for details. Diagnostic services require plan copayment or coinsurance.

³ See Cost Sharing (beginning on page 20) for Basic Medical information.

⁴ Copayment for CSEA and UCS enrollees only.

⁵ Certain qualified procedures require precertification and are subject to a \$50,000 lifetime allowance.

⁶ Preadmission certification required.

⁷ In outpatient surgical locations (Medical/Surgical Program), the copayment for the facility charge is \$30 per visit or Basic Medical benefits apply, depending upon the status of the center. (Check with the center or The Empire Plan program administrators).

⁸ Copayment waived if admitted.

⁹ Attending emergency room physicians and providers who administer or interpret radiological exams, laboratory tests, electrocardiograms and/or pathology services are paid in full. Other providers covered subject to deductible but not coinsurance.

¹⁰ At a hospital-owned urgent care facility only.

¹¹ If service is provided by admitting hospital.

¹² Ambulance transportation to the nearest hospital where emergency care can be performed is covered when the service is provided by a licensed ambulance service and the type of ambulance transportation is required because of an emergency situation.

The Empire Plan, continued

| Benefits | Network Hospital Benefits ^{1,2} | Participating Provider ² | Nonparticipating Provider |
|--|---|--|---|
| Inpatient Drug/ Alcohol Rehabilitation | | No copayment | 90% of billed charges; after applicable coinsurance max, ³ covered in full (See pages 20-21 for details). |
| Durable Medical Equipment | | No copayment (HCAP) | 50% of network allowance (See the <i>Empire Plan Certificate/Reports</i>). |
| Prosthetics | | No copayment ¹³ | Basic Medical ^{13,13} \$1,500 lifetime maximum benefit for prosthetic wigs not subject to deductible or coinsurance |
| Orthotic Devices | | No copayment ¹³ | Basic Medical ^{13,13} |
| External Mastectomy Prostheses | | No network benefit. See nonparticipating provider. | Paid-in-full benefit for one single or double prosthesis per calendar year under Basic Medical, not subject to deductible or coinsurance ^{13,13} (Precertification may be required). |
| Rehabilitative Care (not covered in a skilled nursing facility if Medicare primary) | No copayment as an inpatient; \$20 per visit for outpatient physical therapy following related surgery or hospitalization | Physical or occupational therapy \$20 per visit (MPN) Speech therapy \$20 per visit | \$250 annual deductible, 50% of network allowance Basic Medical ¹³ |
| Diabetic Supplies | | No copayment (HCAP) | 50% of network allowance (See the <i>Empire Plan Certificate/Reports</i>). |
| Insulin and Oral Agents (covered under the Prescription Drug Program, subject to drug copayment) | | | |
| Diabetic Shoes | | \$500 annual maximum benefit | 75% of network allowance up to an annual maximum benefit of \$500 (See the <i>Empire Plan Certificate/Reports</i>). |
| Hospice | No copayment, no limit | | 10% of billed charges up to the combined annual coinsurance maximum |

| Benefits | Network Hospital Benefits^{1,2} | Participating Provider² | Nonparticipating Provider |
|---|--|---|---|
| Skilled Nursing Facility | No copayment up to 365 benefit days ¹⁴ | | |
| Prescription Drugs (see pages 22-23) | | | |
| Specialty Drugs (see pages 22-23) | | | |
| Additional Benefits | | | |
| Dental (preventive) | | Not covered | Not covered |
| Vision (routine only) | | Not covered | Not covered |
| Hearing Aids | | No network benefit. See nonparticipating provider. | Up to \$1,500 per aid per ear every 4 years (every 2 years for children) if medically necessary |
| Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximum | Individual coverage: \$2,400 for the Prescription Drug Program. ¹⁵ \$4,450 shared maximum for the Hospital, Medical/Surgical and Mental Health/Substance Abuse Programs. Family coverage: \$4,800 for the Prescription Drug Program. ¹⁵ \$8,900 shared maximum for the Hospital, Medical/Surgical and Mental Health/Substance Abuse Programs. | | Not available |
| Out of Area Benefit | Benefits for covered services are available worldwide. | | |
| 24-hour NurseLine SM for health information and support at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447). | | | |
| Voluntary Disease Management Programs available for conditions such as asthma, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease (CKD), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, congestive heart failure, depression, diabetes and eating disorders. | | | |
| Diabetes Education Centers for enrollees who have a diagnosis of diabetes. | | | |
| For more information regarding covered vaccines, tests and screenings, see the <i>Empire Plan Preventive Care Coverage Chart</i> on NYSHIP Online under Publications. Or, visit http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/rights/preventive-care . | | | |

¹ Inpatient stays at network hospitals are paid in full. Provider charges are covered under the Medical/Surgical Program. Non-network hospital coverage provided subject to coinsurance (see page 20).

² Copayment waived for preventive services under PPACA. See <http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/rights/preventive-care> or NYSHIP Online for details. Diagnostic services require plan copayment or coinsurance.

³ See Cost Sharing (beginning on page 20) for Basic Medical information.

¹³ Benefit paid up to cost of device meeting individual's functional need.

¹⁴ Precertification required.

¹⁵ Does not apply to Medicare-primary enrollees.

| Benefits | Enrollee Cost |
|--|--|
| Office Visits | \$25 per visit (\$5 for children to age 26) |
| Annual Adult Routine Physicals | No copayment |
| Well Child Care | No copayment |
| Specialty Office Visits | \$40 per visit |
| Diagnostic/Therapeutic Services | |
| Radiology | \$40 per visit |
| Lab Tests | No copayment |
| Pathology | No copayment |
| EKG/EEG | No copayment |
| Radiation | \$25 per visit |
| Chemotherapy | \$25 for Rx injection and \$25 office copayment (max two copayments per day) |
| Women's Health Care/OB GYN | |
| Pap Tests | No copayment |
| Mammograms | No copayment (routine) \$40 copayment (diagnostic) |
| Prenatal Visits | No copayment |
| Postnatal Visits | No copayment |
| Bone Density Tests | No copayment (routine) \$40 copayment (diagnostic) |
| Family Planning Services | \$25 PCP, \$40 specialist per visit |
| Infertility Services | Applicable physician/ facility copayment |
| Contraceptive Drugs | Applicable Rx copayment ¹ |
| Contraceptive Devices | Applicable copayment/ coinsurance ¹ |
| Inpatient Hospital Surgery | |
| Physician | No copayment |
| Facility | No copayment |

| Benefits | Enrollee Cost |
|---|---|
| Outpatient Surgery | |
| Hospital | \$50 per visit |
| Physician's Office | \$50 copayment or 20% coinsurance, whichever is less |
| Outpatient Surgery Facility | \$40 physician \$50 facility per visit |
| Emergency Room | \$100 per visit (waived if admitted within 24 hours) |
| Urgent Care Facility | \$35 per visit |
| Ambulance | \$100 per trip |
| Outpatient Mental Health | |
| Individual, unlimited | \$40 per visit |
| Group, unlimited | \$40 per visit |
| Inpatient Mental Health | No copayment unlimited |
| Outpatient Drug/Alcohol Rehab | \$25 per visit unlimited |
| Inpatient Drug/Alcohol Rehab | No copayment unlimited |
| Durable Medical Equipment | 50% coinsurance |
| Prosthetics | 50% coinsurance |
| Orthotics | 50% coinsurance |
| Rehabilitative Care, Physical, Speech and Occupational Therapy | |
| Inpatient, max 60 days | No copayment |
| Outpatient Physical or Occupational Therapy, max 30 visits for all outpatient services combined | \$40 per visit |
| Outpatient Speech Therapy, max 30 visits for all outpatient services combined | \$40 per visit |
| Diabetic Supplies | \$25 per item up to a 30-day supply |
| Insulin and Oral Agents | \$25 per prescription up to a 30-day supply |

¹ Generic oral contraceptives and certain OTC contraceptive devices covered in full in accordance with the Affordable Care Act.

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Benefits | Enrollee Cost |
|-----------------|----------------------|

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Diabetic Shoes one pair per year when medically necessary | 50% coinsurance |
|---|-----------------|

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Hospice , max 210 days | No copayment |
|-------------------------------|--------------|

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Skilled Nursing Facility max 45 days per admission, 360-day lifetime max | No copayment |
|--|--------------|

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Prescription Drugs | |
| Retail, 30-day supply | \$10 Tier 1, \$30 Tier 2, \$50 Tier 3 ² |
| Mail Order, up to 90-day supply | \$20 Tier 1, \$60 Tier 2, \$100 Tier 3 ² |

You can purchase a 90-day supply of a maintenance medication at a retail pharmacy for a \$30, \$90 or \$150 copayment. You are limited to a 30-day supply for the first fill. Coverage includes fertility drugs, injectable and self-injectable medications and enteral formulas.

Specialty Drugs

Designated specialty drugs are covered only at a network specialty pharmacy, subject to the same days' supply and cost-sharing requirements as the retail benefit, and cannot be filled via mail order. A current list of specialty medications and pharmacies is available at www.excellusbcb.com.

Additional Benefits

Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximum
(In-Network Benefits).....\$6,350 Individual,
\$12,700 Family per year

Dental³.....\$40 per visit

Vision⁴.....\$40 per visit

Hearing Aids.....Children to age 19:
Covered in full for up to two hearing aids every three years

Out of Area.....Our BlueCard and Away From Home Care Programs cover routine and urgent care while traveling, for students away at school, members on extended out-of-town business and for families living apart.

Maternity
(Physician's charge for delivery).....\$50 copayment

Plan Highlights for 2016

Laboratory and pathology services are covered in full. We deliver high-quality coverage, plus discounts on services that encourage you to keep a healthy lifestyle.

Participating Physicians

With more than 3,200 providers available, Blue Choice offers you more choice of doctors than any other area HMO. Talk to your doctor about whether Blue Choice is the right plan for you.

Affiliated Hospitals

All operating hospitals in the Blue Choice service area are available to you, plus some outside the service area. Please call the number provided for a directory, or visit www.excellusbcb.com.

Pharmacies and Prescriptions

Fill prescriptions at any of our more than 60,000 participating pharmacies nationwide. Simply show the pharmacist your ID card. Blue Choice offers convenient mail order services for select maintenance drugs. Blue Choice offers an **incented formulary**.

Medicare Coverage

Medicare-primary NYSHIP enrollees must enroll in Medicare Blue Choice, our **Medicare Advantage Plan**. To qualify, you must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B and live in the service area. Some copayments will vary.

Important Note: Only participating providers in the counties listed below are part of this HMO's network within NYSHIP. Before receiving care, please be sure to check that your provider participates with this HMO's NYSHIP network.

NYSHIP Code Number 066

A Network HMO serving individuals living or working in the following counties in New York: Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates.

Blue Choice

165 Court Street, Rochester, NY 14647

For information:

Blue Choice: 585-454-4810 or 1-800-462-0108

Medicare Blue Choice: 1-877-883-9577

TTY: 1-877-398-2282

Website: www.excellusbcb.com

² If your doctor prescribes a brand-name drug when an FDA-approved generic equivalent is available, you pay the difference between the cost of the generic and the brand-name drug, plus any applicable copayments.

³ Coverage for accidental injury to sound and natural teeth and for care due to congenital disease or anomaly; routine care not covered.

⁴ Coverage for exams to treat a disease or injury; routine care not covered.



| Benefits | Enrollee Cost |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Office Visits | \$20 per visit |
| Annual Adult Routine Physicals | No copayment |
| Well Child Care | No copayment |
| Specialty Office Visits | \$20 per visit |
| Diagnostic/Therapeutic Services | |
| Radiology | \$20 per visit |
| Lab Tests | No copayment ¹ |
| Pathology | No copayment |
| EKG/EEG | \$20 per visit |
| Radiation | \$20 per visit |
| Chemotherapy | \$20 per visit |
| Women's Health Care/OB GYN | |
| Pap Tests | No copayment |
| Mammograms | No copayment (routine only) |
| Prenatal Visits ² | \$20 for initial visit only |
| Postnatal Visits | No copayment |
| Bone Density Tests | No copayment |
| Family Planning Services³ | \$20 per visit |
| Infertility Services⁴ | \$20 per visit |
| Contraceptive Drugs⁵ | No copayment ⁶ |
| Contraceptive Devices | No copayment ⁶ |
| Inpatient Hospital Surgery | No copayment |
| Outpatient Surgery | |
| Hospital | \$100 per visit |
| Physician's Office | \$20 per visit |
| Outpatient Surgery Facility | \$100 per visit |

| Benefits | Enrollee Cost |
|---|--|
| Emergency Room (waived if admitted) | \$100 per visit |
| Urgent Care Facility | \$35 per visit |
| Ambulance | \$100 per trip |
| Outpatient Mental Health | |
| Individual | \$20 per visit unlimited when medically necessary |
| Group | \$20 per visit unlimited when medically necessary |
| Inpatient Mental Health | No copayment unlimited when medically necessary |
| Outpatient Drug/Alcohol Rehab | \$20 per visit unlimited when medically necessary |
| Inpatient Drug/Alcohol Rehab | No copayment unlimited when medically necessary |
| Durable Medical Equipment | 50% coinsurance |
| Prosthetics | 20% coinsurance |
| Orthotics | 20% coinsurance |
| Rehabilitative Care, Physical, Speech and Occupational Therapy | |
| Inpatient, max 45 days | No copayment |
| Outpatient Physical or Occupational Therapy, max 20 visits ⁷ | \$20 per visit |
| Outpatient Speech Therapy, max 20 visits ⁷ | \$20 per visit |
| Diabetic Supplies | \$20 per item |
| Insulin and Oral Agents | \$20 per item |
| Diabetic Shoes | Not covered |

¹ For services at a standalone Quest lab or outpatient hospital that participates as a Quest Diagnostics hospital draw site. Lab services performed in conjunction with outpatient surgery or an emergency room visit also paid in full.

² One-time \$20 copayment to confirm pregnancy. No copayment for inpatient maternity care or gestational diabetes screenings.

³ Coverage is provided for diagnostic testing and procedures in conjunction with artificial insemination. The copayments, coinsurance and deductible under your policy, which apply to hospital, medical or prescription drug benefits, are applicable to the benefits covered under family planning services.

⁴ For services to diagnose and treat infertility. See "Additional Benefits" for artificial insemination.

⁵ Coverage is provided for prescription drugs approved by the FDA for use in treatment associated with contraception.

Benefits

Enrollee Cost

Hospice, max 210 days per year No copayment

Skilled Nursing Facility No copayment
max 50 days

Prescription Drugs

Retail 30-day supply⁶ \$5 Tier 1,
\$30 Tier 2, \$60 Tier 3

Mail Order 90-day supply \$12.50 Tier 1,
\$75 Tier 2, \$150 Tier 3

Includes prenatal vitamins, fertility drugs, injectable/self-injectable medications, insulin and oral diabetic agents. May require prior approval.

Specialty Drugs

Available through mail order at the applicable copayment.

Additional Benefits

Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximum

(In-Network Benefits).....\$3,000 Individual,
\$6,000 Family per year

Dental.....20% discount at select providers,
free second annual exam

Vision.....VisionPLUS Program (details below)

Hearing Aids.....Discounts available
at select locations

Out of Area.....Worldwide coverage
for emergency and urgent care through the BlueCard Program. Guest membership for routine care away from home that enables members on extended business trips or family members away at school to join a nearby Blue HMO for the same benefits.

VisionPLUS Program...Includes routine eye exam covered in full and participating VisionPLUS provider discounts. Low copayments on frames, lenses and a discount on contact lenses and supplies.

Artificial Insemination.....20% coinsurance
Other artificial means to induce pregnancy (in-vitro embryo transfer, etc.) are not covered.

Wellness Services.....\$250 Wellness Card
allowance for use at participating providers

Plan Highlights for 2016

Wellness programs, online and community-based. Acupuncture, massage therapy, nutritional counseling, fitness centers, spa discounts.

Participating Physicians

You have access to 3,000+ physicians/healthcare professionals.

Affiliated Hospitals

You may receive care at all Western New York hospitals, and other hospitals if medically necessary.

Pharmacies and Prescriptions

Our network includes 45,000 participating pharmacies. Prescriptions filled up to 30-day supply. BlueCross BlueShield offers an **incented formulary**.

Medicare Coverage

Medicare-primary enrollees are required to enroll in Senior Blue HMO. To qualify, you must enroll in Medicare Parts A and B and live in one of the counties below.

Important Note: Only participating providers in the counties listed below are part of this HMO's network within NYSHIP. Before receiving care, please be sure to check that your provider participates with this HMO's NYSHIP network.

NYSHIP Code Number 067

An IPA HMO serving individuals living or working in the following counties in New York: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming.

BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York

P.O. Box 80, Buffalo, NY 14240-0080

For information:

Buffalo: 716-887-8840 or 1-877-576-6440

Olean: 716-376-6000 or 1-800-887-8130

Jamestown: 716-484-1188 or 1-800-944-2880

TTY: 1-888-249-2583

Website: www.bcbswny.com

⁶ No copayment for contraceptive drugs and devices unless a generic equivalent is available and you are subject to a \$30 (Tier 2) or \$60 (Tier 3) copayment. A mail-order supply costs 2.5 times the applicable copayment.

⁷ Twenty outpatient visits in aggregate for physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy.



| Benefits | Enrollee Cost |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Office Visits | \$20 per visit |
| Annual Adult Routine Physicals | No copayment |
| Well Child Care | No copayment |
| Specialty Office Visits | \$20 per visit |
| Diagnostic/Therapeutic Services | |
| Radiology ¹ | \$20 per visit |
| Lab Tests | \$10 per visit |
| Pathology | \$10 per visit |
| EKG/EEG | \$20 per visit |
| Radiation | \$20 per visit |
| Chemotherapy | \$20 per visit |
| Women's Health Care/OB GYN | |
| Pap Tests | No copayment |
| Mammograms | No copayment |
| Prenatal Visits | No copayment |
| Postnatal Visits | No copayment |
| Bone Density Tests | No copayment |
| Family Planning Services | \$20 per visit |
| Infertility Services | |
| Physician Office | \$20 per visit |
| Outpatient Surgery Facility | \$75 per visit |
| Contraceptive Drugs | Applicable Rx copayment ² |
| Contraceptive Devices | Applicable Rx copayment ² |
| Inpatient Hospital Surgery | No copayment |
| Outpatient Surgery | |
| Hospital | \$75 per visit |
| Physician's Office | \$20 per visit |
| Outpatient Surgery Facility | \$75 per visit |
| Emergency Room | \$100 per visit |
| (waived if admitted within 24 hours) | |
| Urgent Care Facility | \$35 per visit ³ |

| Benefits | Enrollee Cost |
|--|---|
| Ambulance | \$100 per trip |
| Outpatient Mental Health | |
| Individual, unlimited | \$20 per visit |
| Group, unlimited | \$20 per visit |
| Inpatient Mental Health | No copayment |
| unlimited | |
| Outpatient Drug/Alcohol Rehab | \$20 per visit |
| unlimited | |
| Inpatient Drug/Alcohol Rehab | No copayment |
| unlimited | |
| Durable Medical Equipment | 50% coinsurance |
| Prosthetics | No copayment |
| Orthotics⁴ | No copayment |
| Rehabilitative Care, Physical, Speech and Occupational Therapy | |
| Inpatient, max 45 days | No copayment |
| Outpatient Physical or Occupational Therapy, max 20 visits per year for all outpatient services combined | \$20 per visit |
| Outpatient Speech Therapy, max 20 visits per year for all outpatient services combined | \$20 per visit |
| Diabetic Supplies | |
| Retail, 30-day supply | \$20 per item |
| Mail Order | Not available |
| Insulin and Oral Agents | \$20 per item or applicable Rx copayment, whichever is less |
| Diabetic Shoes | No copayment one pair per year, when medically necessary |
| Hospice, unlimited | No copayment |
| Skilled Nursing Facility | No copayment max 45 days |

¹ Office based: \$20 copayment; hospital based: \$40 copayment.

² Copayment applies only for select Tier 3 oral contraceptive drugs and devices.

³ Within the service area. Outside the service area: \$20 copayment, plus the difference in cost between Independent Health's payment and the provider's charges, if any. \$35 per visit to a participating After Hours Care Facility.

⁴ Excludes shoe inserts.

Benefits

Enrollee Cost

Prescription Drugs

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Retail, 30-day supply | \$5 Tier 1, \$25 Tier 2, \$60 Tier 3 |
| Mail Order, 90-day supply | \$12.50 Tier 1, \$62.50 Tier 2, \$150 Tier 3 (maintenance drugs) |

Coverage includes injectable and self-injectable medications, fertility drugs and enteral formulas.

Specialty Drugs

Benefits are provided for specialty drugs by two contracted specialty pharmacy vendors, Reliance Rx Pharmacy and Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy. Specialty drugs, available through the prescription drug benefit, include select high-cost injectables and oral agents such as oral oncology drugs. Specialty drugs require prior approval and are subject to the applicable Rx copayment based on the formulary status of the medication. Members pay one copayment for each 30-day supply.

Additional Benefits

Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximum

(In-Network Benefits).....\$4,000 Individual,
\$8,000 Family per year

Dental.....\$50 per cleaning
and 20% discount on additional services at select
providers (preventive only)

Vision.....\$10 per visit once every 12 months
(routine only)

Hearing Aids.....Discounts available
at select locations

Out of Area.....While traveling outside
the service area, members are covered for
emergency and urgent care situations only.

Home Health Care, max 40 visits.....\$20 per visit

Eyeglasses.....\$50 for single vision lenses,
frames 40% off retail price

Urgent Care in Service Area

for After Hours Care.....\$35 per visit

Wellness Services.....\$250 allowance
for use at a participating facility

Plan Highlights for 2016

Independent Health has led the way in providing Western New York with innovative solutions that set the standard for quality and service for health plans. We've consistently earned top ratings from NCQA, which is why you can feel comfortable and confident choosing us for your health coverage needs.

Participating Physicians

Independent Health is affiliated with more than 4,000 physicians and health care providers throughout the eight counties of Western New York.

Affiliated Hospitals

Independent Health members are covered at all Western New York hospitals and may be directed to other hospitals when medically necessary.

Pharmacies and Prescriptions

All retail pharmacies in Western New York participate. Members may obtain prescriptions out of the service area by using our National Pharmacy Network, which includes 58,000 pharmacies nationwide.

Medicare Coverage

Medicare-primary NYSHIP retirees must enroll in Medicare Encompass, a **Medicare Advantage Plan**. Copayments differ from the copayments of a NYSHIP-primary enrollee. Call for detailed information.

Important Note: Only participating providers in the counties listed below are part of this HMO's network within NYSHIP. Before receiving care, please be sure to check that your provider participates with this HMO's NYSHIP network.

NYSHIP Code Number 059

An IPA HMO serving individuals living or working in the following counties in New York: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming.

Independent Health

511 Farber Lakes Drive, Buffalo, NY 14221

For information:

Customer Service: 1-800-501-3439

TTY: 716-631-3108

Website: www.independenthealth.com



| Benefits | Enrollee Cost |
|---|---|
| Office Visits | \$25 per visit (\$10 for children) ¹ |
| Annual Adult Routine Physicals | No copayment |
| Well Child Care | No copayment |
| Specialty Office Visits | \$40 per visit |
| Diagnostic/Therapeutic Services | |
| Radiology | \$25 per visit |
| Lab Tests | No copayment |
| Pathology | No copayment |
| EKG/EEG | \$25 per visit |
| Radiation | \$40 per visit |
| Chemotherapy | \$40 per visit |
| Women's Health Care/OB GYN | |
| Pap Tests | No copayment |
| Mammograms | No copayment |
| Prenatal Visits | \$25 for initial visit only |
| Postnatal Visits | No copayment |
| Bone Density Tests | No copayment |
| Family Planning Services | \$25 PCP, \$40 specialist per visit |
| Infertility Services | \$25 PCP, \$40 specialist per visit |
| Contraceptive Drugs ² | No copayment ³ |
| Contraceptive Devices ² | No copayment ³ |
| Inpatient Hospital Surgery | No copayment |
| Outpatient Surgery | |
| Hospital | \$40 per visit |
| Physician's Office | \$25 PCP, \$40 specialist per visit |
| Outpatient Surgery Facility | \$40 per visit |
| Emergency Room (waived if admitted) | \$75 per visit |
| Urgent Care Facility | \$25 per visit |
| Ambulance | \$50 per trip |

| Benefits | Enrollee Cost |
|---|---|
| Outpatient Mental Health | |
| Individual, unlimited | \$25 per visit |
| Group, unlimited | \$25 per visit |
| Inpatient Mental Health unlimited | No copayment |
| Outpatient Drug/Alcohol Rehab unlimited | \$25 per visit |
| Inpatient Drug/Alcohol Rehab unlimited | No copayment |
| Durable Medical Equipment | 50% coinsurance |
| Prosthetics | 50% coinsurance |
| Orthotics | 50% coinsurance |
| Rehabilitative Care, Physical, Speech and Occupational Therapy | |
| Inpatient, max 2 months per condition | No copayment |
| Outpatient Physical or Occupational Therapy, max 30 visits for all outpatient services combined | \$40 per visit |
| Outpatient Speech Therapy, max 30 visits for all outpatient services combined | \$40 per visit |
| Diabetic Supplies 31-day supply | \$25 per boxed item |
| Insulin and Oral Agents 31-day supply | \$25 per boxed item |
| Diabetic Shoes unlimited pairs when medically necessary | 50% coinsurance |
| Hospice , max 210 days | No copayment |
| Skilled Nursing Facility max 45 days/calendar year | No copayment |
| Prescription Drugs | |
| Retail, 30-day supply | \$10 Tier 1, \$30 Tier 2, \$50 Tier 3 |
| Mail Order, 90-day supply | \$25 Tier 1, \$75 Tier 2, \$125 Tier 3 |

¹ PCP sick visits for children (newborn up to age 26) \$10 per visit.

² Over-the-counter contraceptives are not covered.

³ Brand-name contraceptives with generic equivalents require member payment of the difference in cost between the generic and brand-name drugs, plus the Tier 1 copayment.

Prescription Drugs, *continued*

If a member requests a brand-name drug to the prescribed generic drug, he/she pays the difference between the cost of the generic and the brand-name drug, plus the Tier 1 copayment. Coverage includes fertility, injectable and self-injectable medications and enteral formulas. Approved prescription generic contraceptive drugs and devices and those without a generic equivalent are covered at 100% under retail and mail order.

Specialty Drugs

MVP uses CVS/caremark for specialty pharmacy services. Copayments are listed under the Prescription Drug benefit.

Additional Benefits

Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximum

(In-Network Benefits).....\$6,350 Individual,
\$12,700 Family per year

Dental.....\$25 per preventive visit
(children to age 19)

Vision.....\$25 per exam every 24 months
(routine only)

Hearing Aids.....Not covered

Out of Area.....While traveling outside
the service area, coverage is provided for
emergency situations only.

Plan Highlights for 2016

Each MVP subscriber receives \$100 HealthDollars to spend on health, wellness and fitness programs. No referrals required. As an MVP member, you can enjoy significant savings on a wide variety of health-related items, plus special discounts on LASIK eye surgery, eyewear and alternative medicine.

Participating Physicians

MVP Health Care provides services through more than 28,500 participating physicians and health practitioners located throughout its service area.

Affiliated Hospitals

MVP members are covered at participating area hospitals to which their MVP physician has admitting privileges. MVP members may be directed to other hospitals to meet special needs when medically necessary upon prior approval from MVP.

Pharmacies and Prescriptions

Virtually all pharmacy “chain” stores and many independent pharmacies within the MVP service area participate with MVP. Also, MVP offers convenient mail order service for select maintenance drugs. MVP offers an **incented formulary**.

Medicare Coverage

Medicare-primary NYSHIP enrollees must enroll in the MVP Gold Plan, MVP Health Care’s **Medicare Advantage Plan**. Some of the MVP Gold Plan’s copayments may vary from the MVP HMO Plan’s copayments. The MVP HMO plan coordinates coverage with Medicare in the North Region (360). Please contact Member Services for further details.

Important Note: Only participating providers in the counties listed below are part of this HMO’s network within NYSHIP. Before receiving care, please be sure to check that your provider participates with this HMO’s NYSHIP network.

NYSHIP Code Number 058

An IPA HMO serving individuals living or working in the following counties in New York: Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates.

NYSHIP Code Number 060

An IPA HMO serving individuals living or working in the following counties in New York: Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren and Washington.

NYSHIP Code Number 330

An IPA HMO serving individuals living or working in the following counties in New York: Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Otsego, Tioga and Tompkins.

NYSHIP Code Number 340

An IPA HMO serving individuals living or working in the following counties in New York: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester.

NYSHIP Code Number 360

An IPA HMO serving individuals living or working in the following counties in New York: Clinton, Essex, Franklin and St. Lawrence.

MVP Health Care

P.O. Box 2207, 625 State Street
Schenectady, NY 12301-2207

For information:

Customer Service: 1-888-MVP-MBRS (687-6277)

TTY: 1-800-662-1220

Website: www.mvphealthcare.com

NYSHIP Online

NYSHIP Online is designed to provide you with targeted information about your NYSHIP benefits. Visit the New York State Department of Civil Service web site at <https://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits> and select your group if prompted.

Ask your HBA for a copy of the NYSHIP Online flyer, which provides helpful navigation information.

The screenshot displays the NYSHIP Online website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for "Job Seekers", "Employees", "Retirees", and "HR Professionals". Below this is a secondary bar with "Your Group • Your Plan", "Change Your Group", and "Search". The main content area features the "nyshiponline" logo, the "Employee Benefits Division" and "Department of Civil Service" text, and a "Current Topics" sidebar. The sidebar includes links for "What's New?", "Health Benefits & Option Transfer", "Other Benefits", "Using Your Benefits", "Forms", "Planning to Retire?", "Find a Provider", "Calendar", and "MyNYSHIP - Employee Self-Service". A large image shows a man and a woman working at a computer. The footer contains links for "Civil Service Home", "Site Map", "HIPAA Privacy Information", "About Us", "Awards", "Tech Help", "Notices", and "Copyright/Disclaimer". A second footer row includes "EOP | Site Map | Using This Site | Notifications | FAQ | Language Access Information | Contact Us". The bottom-most footer text reads "Copyright © 2015 New York State Department of Civil Service" and "Accessibility | Disclaimer | Privacy Policy".



Reminder: If you are an active employee of New York State and a registered user of MyNYSHIP, you may change your option online (excluding the Opt-out Program) during the Option Transfer Period. See your HBA if you have questions.

How to Find Answers to Your Benefit Questions and Gain Access to Additional Important Information

- If you are an active employee, contact your HBA, usually located in your agency's Personnel Office or the Business Services Center (BSC).
- If you have questions regarding health insurance claims for The Empire Plan, call 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) toll free and choose the appropriate program on the main menu. HMO enrollees should contact their HMO directly.
- A comprehensive list of contact information for HBAs, HMOs, government agencies, Medicare and other important resources is available on NYSHIP Online in the Using Your Benefits section.

The screenshot displays the NYSHIP Online website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Job Seekers', 'Employees', 'Retirees', and 'HR Professionals'. Below these is a dark header with the 'nyshiponline' logo and a list of links: 'Civil Service Home', 'Site Map', 'HIPAA Privacy Information', 'About Us', 'Awards', 'Tech Help', and 'Copyright/Disclaimer'. A secondary navigation bar includes 'Current Topics', 'What's New?', 'Health Benefits & Option Transfer', 'Other Benefits', 'Using Your Benefits', 'Forms', 'Planning to Retire?', 'Find a Provider', 'Calendar', and 'MyNYSHIP - Employee Self-Service'. A dark bar below this contains 'Your Group • Your Plan' and 'Change Your Group Search'. The main content area features the heading 'Using Your Benefits' followed by several links: 'Empire Plan Copayments', 'Telephone Numbers - General contact information for health and other benefits, benefit funds, and State and U.S. government.', 'Publications - A library of recent publications related to your benefits.', 'Empire Plan Providers, Pharmacies and Services', 'Forms - Empire Plan Claims Forms and Non-Participating Provider Claims Forms and Administrative Forms.', '2015 Empire Plan Flexible Formulary', 'Drugs that Require Prior Authorization', 'Specialty Pharmacy Drug List', '2015 At A Glance - Easy to access benefits summary that can answer most of your general questions.', 'Empire Plan Preventive Care Coverage | PDF Version', 'Archived Publications', 'Health Benefits Administrators', 'Young Adult Option Coverage', 'Format Options for Forms and Publications', and 'Military Leave Benefit Extension for Employees of the State of New York'. At the bottom, a dark footer bar contains links for 'EOP | Site Map | Using This Site | Notifications | FAQ | Language Access Information | Contact Us' and copyright information: 'Copyright © 2015 New York State Department of Civil Service. Accessibility | Disclaimer | Privacy Policy'.