



New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

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TO: NYSCOPBA Chief Sector Stewards

FROM: Sharon Smith, Health Benefits Specialist

DATE: April 3, 2018

RE: Empire Plan Updates

NYSCOPBA was notified of two coverage updates for members covered under the Empire Plan.

The first notice concerns the new Shingrix vaccine for the treatment of herpes zoster (shingles). The CDC recently approved this vaccine. As a result, effective April 1, 2018, the Shingrix vaccine is covered by both the Prescription Drug Program (CVS/Caremark) and the CVS Caremark Vaccine Network. There is no cost for the vaccine for enrollees age 50 and older when administered by an in-network provider. Shingrix vaccines administered prior to April 1st were covered but have an enrollee cost, depending on where the services were administered (copay for in-network services and the basic medical deductible and coinsurance for out-of-network services).

Be advised that the Shingrix vaccine requires two shots and that both of them will be covered as described above.

The second notice concerns out-of-network payment of services under the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program administered by Beacon Health. As you know, all non-network claim payments under this program were paid directly to the member. Some inquiries were received concerning large claim checks being sent directly to those receiving services, resulting in the monies being pocketed and the provider not being paid, creating further family issues.

Be advised the Department of Civil Service has changed this requirement (under this program only), allowing benefits to be paid directly to non-network providers for claims received on or after March 1st. In order for a non-network provider to be paid directly, Beacon has added a box on the claim form that members can check to assign payments directly to the provider. If the box is not checked, payment will go to the member, as before.

Beacon Health sent letters to members receiving out-of-network services through the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program to advise them of this change.

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Any assistance in passing this information on to your membership is appreciated.

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cc: NYSCOPBA Executive Board
NYSCOPBA Jt. Committee on Health Benefits