



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

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TO: NYSCOPBA Chief Sector Stewards –  
Southern Region and Mid-Hudson Region

FROM: Sharon Smith, Health Benefits Specialist

DATE: April 9, 2019

RE: Westchester Medical Center Health Network's Participation in  
The Empire Plan Provider Network May Expire June 1, 2019

This memo is notification that recent contract negotiations with Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMC) have been unsuccessful to date; therefore, unless further negotiations lead to a contract agreement, this hospital network will be considered out-of-network for services rendered on or after June 1, 2019. WMC hospitals include Westchester Medical Center, Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital, Bon Secours/Good Samaritan Hospital, Bon Secours/Mercy Community Hospital and Bon Secours/St. Anthony's Hospital. Letters notifying affected members (those living within 30 miles of a WMC facility and/or those who have received services at a WMC facility within the past year) will be issued by mid-April.

Should negotiations fail, the following services will be the **only** services paid on an in-network basis:

- Cases of emergency
- If no in-network hospital exists that can provide the services required
- If a network hospital is not available within a 30-mile radius from member's home
- For continuation of care for pregnancy or health risk
- For any services that were previously preauthorized

Except for the circumstances above, all services will be covered on an out-of-network basis, as follows:

Covered services (other than those above) shall be reimbursed at 90 percent of charges and the member will be responsible for the additional 10 percent of the billed charges up to the annual coinsurance maximum amount. The current annual coinsurance maximum amount is \$3,750 for enrollee, \$3,750 for enrolled spouse/domestic partner and \$3,750 for all dependent children combined for non-network hospital services. For members in titles equated to salary grade level six or below, the coinsurance maximum is \$1,875.

Due to network termination of these facilities, the following may also occur:

- patients may be refused treatment for non-emergency services or elective treatment at any of these facilities;
- although WMC cannot refuse emergency treatment to a patient, once the patient is stabilized, the hospitals might choose to transfer the patient to another hospital;
- patients may be required to make payment up front, before services are rendered at any of these facilities;
- patients may be required to sign a guarantee of payment before receiving services, which may include an outline of a payment schedule, as well as interest that can be charged on any outstanding balance; and
- WCM will no longer be required to bill Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield directly so enrollees may be responsible for filing claims to obtain reimbursement.

Therefore, due to the out-of-pocket costs members will incur using a WMC hospital, members seeking services should utilize a participating hospital. A list of alternative, in-network hospitals, is below:

Benedictine Hospital in Kingston, NY  
Calvary Hospital in Bronx, NY  
Catskill Regional Medical Center – Harris, in Harris, NY  
Ellenville Regional Hospital in Ellenville, NY  
Elmhurst Hospital in Elmhurst, NY  
Englewood Hospital and Medical Center in Englewood, NJ  
Flushing Hospital Med Center in Flushing, NY  
Glen Cove Hospital, in Glen Cove, NY  
Harlem Hospital in New York, NY  
Henry J. Carter Specialty Hospital and Nursing Facility in New York, NY  
Jacobi Medical Center in Bronx, NY  
Kingston Hospital in Kingston, NY  
Lenox Hill Hospital in New York, NY  
Lincoln Hospital in Bronx, NY  
Margaretville Hospital in Margaretville, NY  
Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York, NY  
Metropolitan Hospital in New York, NY  
Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx, NY  
Montefiore Medical Center, Westchester Square in Bronx, NY  
New York Presbyterian in New York, NY  
NY Presbyterian – Lawrence Hospital in Bronxville, NY

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center in Newark, NJ  
North Central Bronx in Bronx, NY  
North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, NY  
NY Presbyterian – Queens in Flushing, NY  
NYU Winthrop in Mineola, NY  
Presbyterian Allen Hospital in New York, NY  
St. Barnabas Hospital in Bronx, NY  
St. Francis Hospital in Roslyn, NY  
St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Paterson, NJ  
St. Mary's Hospital in Passaic, NJ  
Syosset Hospital – North Shore University in Syosset, NY  
The Stamford Hospital in Stamford, CT  
Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, NY

Members who utilize a WMC facility beginning 6/1/19 will be issued payment for covered services directly and it will be that member's responsibility to pay the hospital.

Members currently receiving services from a WMC hospital or who are scheduled for treatment at one of the hospitals should contact Empire BlueCross BlueShield toll free at 1-800-495-9323 (Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 am and 5:00 pm). Customer service representatives will be happy to answer any questions they may have, as well assist them in selecting a hospital that is in-network.

Please note that these changes have no impact on the Medical/Surgical Program administered by United HealthCare. However, remember that paid-in-full services for anesthesia, radiology or pathology are only available at in-network hospitals. Members may continue to use the same Empire Plan participating physicians or seek services of non-participating providers using the Basic Medical benefits. If a member is using a provider who has admitting privileges at both an WCM hospital and other in-network hospitals, that member should ask the provider for admission into the in-network hospital instead of admission to a WMC hospital.

Please share this information with your membership; and I will keep you informed of ongoing negotiations.

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