



## New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association

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TO: NYSCOPBA Chief Sector Stewards

FROM: Sharon Smith, Health Benefits Specialist

DATE: May 3, 2019

RE: Health Insurance Updates

Below are some additional updates regarding the June 1<sup>st</sup> health insurance changes. Please share with your membership.

**Empire Plan's Advanced Flexible Formulary** – due to a switch to this formulary June 1<sup>st</sup>, the impact on NYSCOPBA members is as follows:

51 Covered Drugs Now Excluded (Negative Impact)	461 members
4 Drugs Uptiered to Non-Preferred (Negative Impact)	5 members
10 Excluded Drugs Added to Coverage as a Brand (Positive Impact)	12 members
9 Drugs Downtiered to Preferred (Positive Impact)	208 members

This new formulary was sent to members' homes, as well as provider offices. Affected members will receive notification of these changes from CVS/Caremark, along with any necessary alternative suggestions to discuss with their provider.

There is one drug being grandfathered on a short term basis for 31 members who began treatment cycles before June 1<sup>st</sup>; and the members will be expected to seek an alternative drug after the current cycle ends, should further treatment be required (a notification letter will be sent to those members by 5/14). In addition, there are three drugs being grandfathered on a long term basis for 17 members who began treatment cycles on those drugs before June 1<sup>st</sup>; and the members will remain covered for the duration of their drug therapy without having to request a formulary exception (a notification letter was sent to those members last week). For all members who began treatment on either the short term or long term drugs after June 1<sup>st</sup>, the drugs will be excluded drugs.

**2019 Dependent Care Advantage Account/Employer Contribution** – members who have an active 2019 dependent care account will receive the employer contribution with the following paychecks:

May 15<sup>th</sup> for those paid on the Administration pay cycle  
May 23<sup>rd</sup> for those paid on the Institution pay cycle

May 3, 2019

Page 2

The employer contribution does not change members' election amount or cause their account to exceed the IRS limit, but will reduce their bi-weekly deductions. If members' election amounts are less than the amount of their employer contribution, they will receive the entire amount of their employer contribution.

Members who were not enrolled in the DCAA, on a leave of absence or who terminated their 2019 DCAA will not receive an employer contribution. If a member can enroll with an eligible change in status event, they will be given an employer contribution for the remainder of the plan year (visit [flexspend.ny.gov](http://flexspend.ny.gov) or call WageWorks at 1-800-358-7202 regarding examples of eligible change in status events, or call DCAA staff at 518-473-6211 with any questions).

**(THIS UPDATE AFFECTS MEMBERS IN THE SOUTHERN AND MID-HUDSON REGIONS ONLY)** – ongoing negotiations with the Westchester Medical Center Health Network - BlueCross/BlueShield continues to negotiation with this network in order to keep the affected hospitals in-network. If negotiations fail, the hospitals will be out-of-network effective June 1st (see my previous memo of April 9<sup>th</sup> for detailed information). A notification letter was sent May 1<sup>st</sup> to all members who live within 30 miles of a Westchester Medical Center Network hospital or who have received services at one of the facilities within the past year.

Should you have any questions on any of the above, feel free to contact me.

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