



New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association

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TO: Chief Sector Stewards

FROM: Sharon Smith
Health Benefits Specialist

DATE: February 19, 2020

RE: Empire Plan Acupuncturists' Coverage

This memo is an update of my memo dated January 4, 2019, regarding the addition of Acupuncturists to the Empire Plan's Participating Provider Network (currently in New York State only).

Recruitment continued steadily through 2019 and at this juncture, there have been approximately 160 providers added to the network. On July 1st, these providers will be listed in the provider directory and members will be able to search by name, provider type and geographic distance within a desired radius. The network is strongest in the major metropolitan areas, down the Hudson Valley corridor and into Long Island, which are the areas where a larger number of Acupuncturists practice. Access to other parts of the state will continue to be a focus for further review and recruitment.

As noted in my previous memo, to avoid unexpected out-of-pocket costs, members should check online or call United HealthCare (1-877-769-7447, Option 1) **before receiving services** to ensure a provider is in-network.

Please share this information with your membership; and should anyone have any questions, feel free to contact me at extension 236.

SS

cc: NYSCOPBA Jt. Committee on Health Benefits