Choose Your Health Insurance Plan for 2013 by December 31, 2012

Now is the Option Transfer Period – the time to choose the health insurance plan you want in 2013. The New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) offers you the choice of The Empire Plan or a NYSHIP-approved Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) serving the area where you live or work.

Except under very defined circumstances, you cannot change plans outside the annual Option Transfer Period, which ends December 31, 2012.

To change your health insurance plan during the Option Transfer Period, see your agency Health Benefits Administrator (HBA) as soon as possible. Ask for the Health Insurance Transaction Form PS-404. Return the completed form to your agency HBA by December 31, 2012. Or, change your option online using MyNYSHIP. Go to https://www.cs.ny.gov. Click on Benefit Programs, then NYSHIP Online. Select your group if prompted, and then click on MyNYSHIP – Employee Self-Service. Or, you can go directly to https://www.cs.ny.gov/mynyship. Note: You must register and receive an activation code by mail to use MyNYSHIP.

NO ACTION IS REQUIRED IF YOU WISH TO KEEP YOUR CURRENT HEALTH INSURANCE OPTION AND STILL QUALIFY FOR THAT PLAN.
(See the note at the top of page 4.)
Choices Explains Your Current Plan and Other Available Plans

If you are considering changing your health insurance plan for 2013 or wish to review your current plan, ask your agency HBA (usually located in the Personnel Office) for a copy of Choices for 2013, your guide to NYSHIP options. Or, find Choices and other option transfer publications on our web site at https://www.cs.ny.gov. Click on Benefit Programs, then NYSHIP Online. Select your group if prompted, and then click on Health Benefits & Option Transfer. Choose Rates and Health Plan Choices for the most up-to-date option transfer information.

If there are any copayment or benefit changes for 2013, your current plan will notify you directly. Read your Empire Plan Report or recent HMO notices for changes that may affect you. If you have questions about The Empire Plan, call toll free 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447). Select the Medical Program and then the appropriate prompt for option transfer benefit questions.

If you have questions about NYSHIP HMOs, call the HMOs directly. (See the rate listing inside and Choices for telephone numbers.) Be sure you understand how your benefits will be affected if you change plans. You are choosing a benefit package for yourself and your dependents for the entire 2013 program year. Changing plans may result in substantially different coverage and cost.

To generate a side-by-side comparison of the benefits provided by each of the NYSHIP plans in your area, use the NYSHIP Plan Comparison tool, available on the Department of Civil Service web site. Go to our home page at https://www.cs.ny.gov, click on Benefit Programs, then NYSHIP Online. 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 easy-to-read comparison table.

The Summary of Benefits and Coverage is a simple and standardized comparison document required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. To view a copy of the Summary of Benefits and Coverage for each NYSHIP plan, 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 press 1 for the Medical Program to request a copy.

Keep Your Health Insurance Up to Date

Notify your agency HBA when changes in your family, marital or employment status affect your coverage or if your name, address or phone number changes. Act promptly. Deadlines may apply. See your NYSHIP General Information Book for details.

Retiring or Vesting in 2013?

You may change your health insurance plan when you retire or vest your health insurance. Retirees and vestees who continue their NYSHIP enrollment no longer have to wait until the Option Transfer Period; they may change health insurance options at any time once during a 12-month period. If you are planning to leave the payroll: Will you or your spouse/domestic partner be eligible for Medicare? Are you planning to move out of the area? Ask your agency HBA for a copy of Choices for 2013 for Retirees to see how retirement will affect your coverage.

Changing Plans Outside the Option Transfer Period

You may change plans outside the designated Option Transfer Period only under certain circumstances. Read your NYSHIP General Information Book and Empire Plan Report or HMO Report updating your book for a list of events that allow you to change plans outside of the Option Transfer Period. Contact your agency HBA for more information.
Important Dates for Your Benefit Choices

December 31, 2012
Deadline for submitting signed Health Insurance Transaction Form PS-404 to your agency HBA if you want to change your health insurance plan.

January 3, 2013 Administration Lag-Exempt
New health insurance plan begins for Administration Lag-Exempt Payroll employees. The earliest paycheck in which a deduction change will be made is the check of December 19, 2012. If you change options, because of processing time, most paycheck changes will be made in January and will include retroactive adjustments for option changes beginning on January 3, 2013.

January 3, 2013 Administration Lag
New health insurance plan begins for Administration Lag-Payroll employees. The earliest paycheck in which a deduction change will be made is the check of January 2, 2013. If you change options, because of processing time, most paycheck changes will be made later in January and will include retroactive adjustments for option changes beginning on January 3, 2013.

December 27, 2012 Institution Lag-Exempt
New health insurance plan begins for Institution Lag-Exempt Payroll employees. The earliest paycheck in which you will see a deduction change will be the check of December 13, 2012. If you change options, because of processing time, most paycheck changes will be made in January and will include retroactive adjustments for option changes beginning on December 27, 2012.

December 27, 2012 Institution Lag
New health insurance plan begins for Institution Lag-Payroll employees. The earliest paycheck in which you will see a deduction change will be the check of December 27, 2012. If you change options, because of processing time, most paycheck changes will be made in January and will include retroactive adjustments for option changes beginning on December 27, 2012.

December 27, 2012 Triple Lag
New health insurance plan begins for Institution Payroll employees who were triple lagged. The earliest paycheck in which you will see a deduction change will be the check of January 10, 2013. If you change options, because of processing time, most paycheck changes will be made later in January and will include retroactive adjustments for option changes beginning on December 27, 2012.
New York State Health Insurance Program 2013 Rates
Enrollee contributions for employees of New York State

**Note:** To enroll in an HMO, you must live or work in the HMO’s service area. If you no longer live or work in the NYSHIP service area of the HMO in which you are now enrolled, you must change to another plan. Service areas may change from year to year. Please check Choices for 2013 or call the HMO for NYSHIP service area information.

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<td>44</td>
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Your Biweekly Premium Contribution

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 through biweekly deductions from your paycheck. For Empire Plan enrollees, the State pays 90 percent of the cost of the premium for enrollee coverage and 75 percent of the premium for dependent coverage. For HMO enrollees, the State pays 90 percent of the premium for enrollee coverage and 75 percent for dependent coverage. However, the State’s dollar contribution for the non-prescription drug components of the HMO premium will not exceed its dollar contribution for the non-prescription drug components of The Empire Plan premium.

This information does not apply to COBRA and Young Adult Option enrollees. COBRA and Young Adult Option enrollees will receive a separate notice with 2013 rates.
001  The Empire Plan
(available to enrollees and their eligible dependents worldwide)
1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447)
https://www.cs.ny.gov
Medical Program: UnitedHealthcare,
PO Box 1600, Kingston, NY 12402-1600
(TTY: 1-888-697-9054)
Hospital Program: Empire BlueCross BlueShield,
NYS Service Center, PO Box 1407,
Church Street Station, New York, NY 10008-1407
(TTY: 1-800-241-6894)
Mental Health/Substance Abuse Program:
UnitedHealthcare/OptumHealth,
PO Box 5190, Kingston, NY 12402-5190
(TTY: 1-800-855-2881)
Prescription Drug Program: UnitedHealthcare & Express Scripts/Medco Health Solutions,
PO Box 5900
Kingston, NY 12402-5900
(TTY: 1-800-759-1089)

210  Aetna
99 Park Ave., New York, NY 10016
1-800-323-9930
(TTY: 1-800-654-5984)
www.aetna.com
Serving Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan and Westchester counties in New York State, and all counties in New Jersey

066  Blue Choice
165 Court St., Rochester, NY 14647
585-454-4810 or 1-800-462-0108
(TTY: 1-877-398-2282)
www.excellusbcbs.com
Serving Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates counties

067  BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York
PO Box 80, Buffalo, NY 14240
716-887-8840 or 1-877-576-6440
(TTY: 1-888-249-2583)
www.bcbswny.com
Serving Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming counties

063  Capital District Physicians’ Health Plan (CDPHP) (Capital)
500 Patroon Creek Blvd., Albany, NY 12206-1057
518-641-3700 or 1-800-777-2273
(TTY: 1-877-261-1164)
www.cdphp.com
Serving Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren and Washington counties

300  Capital District Physicians’ Health Plan (CDPHP) (Central)
500 Patroon Creek Blvd., Albany, NY 12206-1057
518-641-3700 or 1-800-777-2273
(TTY: 1-877-261-1164)
www.cdphp.com
Serving Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Essex, Hamilton, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Otsego and Tioga counties

310  Capital District Physicians’ Health Plan (CDPHP) (Hudson Valley)
500 Patroon Creek Blvd., Albany, NY 12206-1057
518-641-3700 or 1-800-777-2273
(TTY: 1-877-261-1164)
www.cdphp.com
Serving Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties

280  Empire BlueCross BlueShield HMO (Upstate)
11 Corporate Woods Blvd., PO Box 11800,
Albany, NY 12211-0800
1-800-453-0113 (TTY: 1-800-241-6894)
www.empireblue.com
Serving Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Delaware, Essex, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren and Washington counties

290  Empire BlueCross BlueShield HMO (Downstate)
11 Corporate Woods Blvd., PO Box 11800,
Albany, NY 12211-0800
1-800-453-0113 (TTY: 1-800-241-6894)
www.empireblue.com
Serving Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester counties
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<td></td>
<td>55 Water St., New York, NY 10041 or PO Box 2844, New York, NY 10116</td>
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<td>1-877-244-4466 (TTY: 1-877-208-7920)</td>
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<td>1-877-861-0175 (TTY: 1-888-447-4833)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>333 Butternut Dr., Syracuse, NY 13214-1803</td>
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<td>1-800-447-6269 (TTY: 1-877-398-2275)</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.excellusbcbs.com">www.excellusbcbs.com</a></td>
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<td>511 Farber Lakes Dr., Buffalo, NY 14221</td>
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<td>1-800-501-3439 (TTY: 716-631-3108)</td>
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<td>PO Box 2207, 625 State St., Schenectady, NY 12301-2207</td>
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Your Only Notice of Health Insurance
Rate Changes for 2013

Please do not send mail or correspondence to the return address listed above. See page 1 for address.

Important Health Insurance Information
for the Enrollee, Enrolled Spouse/Domestic Partner
and Other Enrolled Dependents

Rates & Deadlines for 2013 (Unsettled) – November 2012

It is the policy of the New York State Department of Civil Service to provide reasonable accommodation to ensure effective communication of information in benefits publications to individuals with disabilities. These publications are also available on the Department of Civil Service web site (https://www.cs.ny.gov). Click on Benefit Programs then NYSHIP Online for timely information that meets universal accessibility standards adopted by New York State for NYS agency web sites. If you need an auxiliary aid or service to make benefits information available to you, please contact your agency Health Benefits Administrator. COBRA Enrollees: Contact the Employee Benefits Division at 518-457-5754 or 1-800-833-4344 (U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands).

Rates & Deadlines for 2013 was printed on paper containing recycled fiber using environmentally sensitive inks.