



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

102 Hackett Boulevard - Albany, NY 12209
(518) 427-1551 www.nyscopba.org nyscopba@nyscopba.org



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

FROM: Sharon Smith, Health Benefits Specialist

DATE: March 15, 2005

RE: Empire Plan Blue Cross/Blue Shield Hospital Network

This memo is a follow-up to mine of March 3, 2005, regarding Empire Plan participation of three hospitals associated with Bon Secours Charity Health System (namely, Good Samaritan Hospital/Suffern, NY; Bon Secours Community Hospital/Port Jervis, NY; and St. Anthony Community Hospital/Warwick, NY).

Per my previous memo, these hospitals would no longer be participating in the Empire Plan as of March 10, 2005. However, negotiations have continued and the parties agreed to a 45-day extension of their existing agreement until completed. Therefore, should no settlement be reached within the 45 days, the three hospitals will be dropped from the participating network effective April 25th, 2005 (not March 10, 2005).

Should you have any questions regarding this information, feel free to contact me NYSCOPBA, extension 236.

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Attachments

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



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

FROM: Sharon Smith, Health Benefits Specialist

DATE: March 3, 2005

RE: Empire Plan Blue Cross/Blue Shield Hospital Network

Attached please find a letter received from Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield regarding three hospitals associated with Bon Secours Charity Health System. Since negotiations with these hospitals have been unsuccessful, effective March 10, 2005, they will no longer participate within the Empire Plan. The three hospitals are:

Good Samaritan Hospital/Suffern, NY
Bon Secours Community Hospital/Port Jervis, NY
St. Anthony Community Hospital/Warwick, NY

Please read this letter and share it with your membership. It clearly explains how this change may affect coverage should members continue to receive services at these hospitals after March 10th. A list of alternative hospitals (participating hospitals) is included.

Should you have any questions regarding this information, feel free to contact me NYSCOPBA, extension 236.

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Attachments

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



11 west forty-second street
new york, ny 10036
www.empireblue.com

March 3, 2005

Dear Empire Plan Member:

Empire BlueCross BlueShield is committed to providing Empire Plan members with quality service at affordable rates. One way we do this is by negotiating competitive reimbursement rates with participating hospitals.

To date, negotiations have been unsuccessful with Bon Secours Charity Health System. While we are hopeful we will reach an agreement shortly, Bon Secours Charity Health System has advised us that effective March 10, 2005 they will no longer be a participating provider with Empire BlueCross BlueShield. The three hospitals below, which are part of the Bon Secours Charity Health System, will be affected by this change and will no longer be considered in-network providers.

Good Samaritan Hospital
255 Lafayette Avenue
Suffern, NY 10901

St. Anthony Community Hospital
15 Maple Avenue
Warwick, NY 10990

Bon Secours Community Hospital
160 East Main Street
Port Jervis, NY 12771

How Does This Affect You?

Hospital benefits under the Empire plan provide the same coverage regardless of whether a hospital participates. Therefore, this will have no impact on Empire plan benefits available to patients. **However, these facilities will no longer be paid directly by Empire BlueCross BlueShield.** As a result, the following may occur:

- Patients may be refused treatment for non-emergency services or elective treatment at Bon Secours Charity Health System facilities.
- Although a hospital cannot refuse emergency treatment to a patient, once the patient is stabilized the hospital might choose to transfer the patient to another hospital.
- Patients may be required to make payment up front, before services are rendered by Bon Secours Charity Health System hospitals.
- 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.
- These hospitals may no longer bill Empire BlueCross BlueShield directly, so enrollees may be responsible for filing claims with Empire BlueCross BlueShield to obtain reimbursement.

Therefore, it would be in the best interest for Empire Plan enrollees to seek health care at hospitals that participate with Empire BlueCross BlueShield. By using one of the participating hospitals listed on the next page, not only will you avoid potential difficulties, you will help to prevent unnecessary increases in the cost of your health insurance. Your cooperation in using Empire BlueCross BlueShield contracted facilities helps control the cost of your healthcare.

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How will claims for services received at Bon Secours Charity Health System hospitals be paid if they are no longer participating?

Empire BlueCross BlueShield will issue payment for covered services **directly to the enrollee** within 45 days of receipt of all information necessary to process a claim, in accordance with the New York State Prompt Payment Legislation. The enrollee will be responsible for paying the hospital. If these hospitals will no longer file claims to Empire BlueCross BlueShield directly, the enrollee must submit the claim and a copy of the bill to Empire BlueCross BlueShield, New York State Service Center, P.O. Box 1407, Church Street Station, New York, New York, 10008-1407.

What should you do?

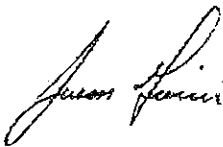
If you are currently receiving services from a Bon Secours Charity Health System hospital or are scheduled for treatment at one of them, please call Empire BlueCross BlueShield toll-free at **1-800-495-9323** between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday for assistance. The customer service representatives also will be happy to answer any other questions you may have as well as assist you in selecting an alternative hospital that is participating.

These changes have no impact on the medical portion of the Empire plan insured and administered by United HealthCare. Enrollees may continue to use the same Empire plan participating physicians or seek the services of non-participating providers using Basic Medical benefits. If you are seeing a provider that has admitting privileges at one of Empire BlueCross BlueShield's participating hospitals and you need hospitalization, ask your provider to admit you into a participating hospital instead of using a Bon Secours Charity Health System facility.

Attached is a listing of alternative hospitals in your area that have contracted with Empire BlueCross BlueShield to provide hospitalization services. We encourage you to use these participating hospitals.

We appreciate your understanding during this transition.

Sincerely,



Jason Gorevic
Senior Vice President, Chief Sales and Marketing Officer

Alternative Hospitals

Bergen County

Englewood Hospital
Englewood, NJ

Hackensack University Medical Center
Hackensack, NJ

Valley Hospital
Ridgewood, NJ

Holy Name Hospital
Teaneck, NJ

Pascack Valley Hospital
Westwood, NJ

Passaic County

Passaic Beth Israel Regional Medical Center
Passaic, NJ

St. Mary's - Passaic
Passaic, NJ

Barnert Hospital
Paterson, NJ

St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center
Paterson, NJ

St. Joseph's Wayne General Hospital
Wayne, NJ

Orange County

St. Luke Cornwall Hospital – Cornwall Campus
Cornwall, NY

St. Luke Cornwall Hospital - Newburgh
Newburgh, NY

Orange Regional Medical Center – Arden Hill Campus
Goshen, NY

Orange Regional Medical Center – Horton Campus
Middletown, NY

Rockland County

Nyack Hospital
Nyack, NY

Sullivan County

Catskill Regional Medical Center - Herman Division
Callicoon, NY

Catskill Regional Medical Center - Seelig Division
Harris, NY

Westchester County

Lawrence Hospital
Bronxville, NY

Hudson Valley Hospital Center
Cortlandt Manor, NY

Community Hospital of Dobbs Ferry
Dobbs Ferry, NY

St. Vincent's Hospital - Westchester Division
Harrison, NY

Northern Westchester Hospital Center
Mount Kisco, NY

Mount Vernon Hospital
Mount Vernon, NY

Sound Shore Medical Center of Westchester
New Rochelle, NY

Phelps Memorial Hospital Center
Sleepy Hollow, NY

Westchester Medical Center - Valhalla Campus
Valhalla, NY

White Plains Hospital Center
White Plains, NY

St. John's Riverside Hospital
Yonkers, NY

St. Joseph's Medical Center
Yonkers, NY

Alt Hosp

Services provided by Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc., and/or Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc., licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of Independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans.