



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

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**- PLEASE POST -**

TO: Chief Sector Stewards  
FROM: Sharon Smith, Health Benefits Specialist  
DATE: August 3, 2009  
RE: Health Insurance Updates

Below are some updates regarding health insurance benefits. Please share this information with your membership.

1. **Empire Plan Enrollees** - Hospital Terminations (Downstate) – be advised that the East End Health Alliance (Eastern Long Island Hospital, Peconic Bay Medical Center and Southampton Hospital) no longer participate in the Empire Plan Network effective 8/1/09. Therefore, only the following services provided at these facilities will be covered on an in-network basis:
  - cases of emergency;
  - if no network hospital is available within 30 miles of member's residence 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 if member is in her second or third trimester as of 8/1/09 (covered through the delivery of child and post-partum care directly related to the delivery); or
  - in-patient services for an admission which occurred before 8/1/09.

Members who do not qualify for one of the above circumstances and continue to utilize any of these hospitals should review their contract and plan documents for coverage through a non-participating hospital (out-of-pocket expenses will apply).

2. **Empire Plan Enrollees** - Stony Brook University Medical Center's negotiations with Blue Cross/Blue Shield were successful; therefore, this hospital continues to participate in the Empire Plan.

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3. **Empire Plan** Half Tablet Program: effective August 1, 2009, the following drugs were added to the Half-Tablet Program:

Diabetes:

Actos: 15mg

Avandia: 2mg and 4mg

Psychotherapeutic Agents:

Abilify: 5mg, 10mg and 20mg

Seroquel: 25mg, 50mg, 100mg and 200mg

Zyprexa: 2.5 mg, 5mg, 7.5mg and 10mg

Anyone interesting in these additions should call 1-877-769-7447 (Option 4 –Medco) for assistance.

4. **Empire Plan/Lab Corp** (Northern Region) – the Lab Corp facility at 101 Ridge Street, Glens Falls closed down; However, be advised that the lab in Glens Falls Hospital (100 Park Street) participates with United HealthCare.
5. Flex Spending Account: Fringe Benefits Management Company, the flex spending account plan administrator, now allows online claims submission through [www.myFBMC.com](http://www.myFBMC.com). The process allows participants the opportunity to submit (via the web) a scanned image of a completed claim form, along with scans of supporting information. This process results in faster reimbursement of claims.

Should you have any questions regarding these updates, feel free to contact me.

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cc: NYSCOPBA Executive Board  
NYSCOPBA Joint Committee on Health Benefits