



New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association

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TO: All NYSCOPBA Members – Southern Region and Mid-Hudson Region

FROM: Sharon Smith, Health Benefits Specialist

DATE: January 15, 2026

RE: Update on Termination of Mt. Sinai Health System from the Empire Plan's Anthem Blue Cross Hospital Network Effective 12/31/25

This memo is a follow-up to my December 5th and 12th memos concerning Anthem Blue Cross and Mt. Sinai Health System contract negotiations. Negotiations were unsuccessful and Mt. Sinai Health System's contract with Anthem Blue Cross terminated December 31, 2025 (though negotiations continue). Under New York Law, there is a two-month cooling off period required, meaning the health system's actual termination date is March 1, 2026.

Attached is a copy of the letter Anthem sent members who received services through the health system during the past year. The letter clearly explains the situation and includes a list of affected facilities. The letter also includes a list of alternative in-network hospitals available in the Empire Plan.

For members in an ongoing course of treatment, Anthem will continue to cover services for the condition at issue at the in-network benefit level through March 31, 2026, instead of the February 28th date. Members being treated for a pregnancy will receive in-network coverage through delivery and any post-partum care.

Please note the paragraphs that list the only services from Mount Sinai Health System that will be considered in-network beginning March 1, 2026, as well as payment information. Since any out-of-network payment will be sent directly to the member, there is also a list of items pertaining to that payment.

Be advised the change has no impact on the Empire Plan Medical/Surgical Program administered by United HealthCare; therefore, members can continue treatment with their in-network provider. However, remember that paid in-full services for anesthesia, radiology or pathology are only available at an in-network hospital, meaning those services will be covered under the Basic Medical Program of the Empire Plan, as well as any services at the hospital with an out-of-network provider.

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For questions and/or more information, call the Empire Plan at 1-877-769-7447 and press or say 2 for the Hospital Program.

We will keep you informed of any negotiation updates we receive.

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Attachment

cc: NYS COPBA Executive Board
NYS COPBA Jt. Committee on Health Benefits



P.O. Box 1407
Church Street Station
New York, NY 10008

January 15, 2026

Important information — Status of contract negotiations with Mount Sinai Health System

Dear Empire Plan Member:

Anthem Blue Cross ("Anthem") 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.

Mount Sinai Health System is a participating provider in our networks but that may change. We are in negotiations with Mount Sinai Health System, but if those negotiations are unsuccessful, our contract with Mount Sinai Health System ends on December 31, 2025. However, based on New York law, Anthem and Mount Sinai Health System will continue to abide by the terms of the agreement during a "cooling off" period which means Anthem will continue to pay claims at in-network benefit levels for two months ending on February 28, 2026. We are actively working to reach a reasonable agreement, but if this does not occur, Mount Sinai Health System hospitals will be out-of-network for dates of service beginning March 1, 2026.

Mount Sinai Health System consists of:

- Mount Sinai Brooklyn
- The Mount Sinai Hospital
- Mount Sinai Morningside
- Mount Sinai Queens
- Mount Sinai South Nassau
- Mount Sinai West
- New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai

How does this affect you?

If we are unable to reach an agreement and you are in an ongoing course of treatment with Mount Sinai Health System, we will continue to cover services for the condition at issue at the in-network benefit level through March 31, 2026, or if you are being treated for a pregnancy, through delivery and any post-partum care. After that date, any services provided by Mount Sinai Health System will be considered out-of-network. If you have any questions please call The Empire Plan at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and press or say 2 for the Hospital Program.

Except as explained above, beginning on March 1, 2026, only the following services from Mount Sinai Health System will be considered in-network:

- Cases of emergency
- If no in-network hospital is available within a 30-mile radius or a 30-minute travel time from your home that can provide the services required
- If an in-network hospital is not available within a 30-mile radius or a 30-minute travel time from your home
- For any services that were previously preauthorized

That means if you choose to receive services at Mount Sinai Health System (except for the specific circumstances listed above) it will be considered out-of-network. You will be responsible for paying ten percent (10%) of the billed charges for covered services, up to the annual coinsurance maximum amount. Refer to *your Empire Plan 2026 At A Glance* found at nyship.ny.gov.

Additionally, Mount Sinai Health System will no longer be paid directly by Anthem. As a result, the following can occur:

- Patients can be refused treatment for non-emergency services or elective treatment at Mount Sinai Health System.
- Although a hospital cannot refuse emergency treatment to a patient, once the patient is stabilized the hospital can choose to transfer the patient to another hospital.
- Patients can be required to make payment up front before services are rendered by Mount Sinai Health System.
- Patients can be required to sign a guarantee of payment before receiving services which may include an outline of a payment schedule as well as interest charged on any outstanding balance.
- Mount Sinai Health System will no longer be required to bill Anthem directly, so members may be responsible for filing claims with Anthem to obtain reimbursement.

It would be in the best interest of Empire Plan members to seek health care at hospitals that participate with Anthem. By using one of the participating hospitals listed below, you avoid potential difficulties and have lower out-of-pocket costs. Using network hospitals helps control the cost of healthcare for both you and the Empire Plan.

Alternate Facilities

We want to assure you that you will continue to have access to nearby hospitals. This is not an all-inclusive list of alternative network hospitals. Please visit anthembluecross.com/nys for a complete list of participating hospitals.

Alternate Facility	Physical Address
Brookdale Hospital Medical Center	1 Brookdale Plaza, Brooklyn, NY 11212
Catholic Health/St. Joseph Hospital	4295 Hempstead Turnpike, Bethpage, NY 11714
Flushing Hospital Medical Center	4500 Parsons Blvd, Flushing, NY 11355
Hospital for Special Surgery	535 E 70 th Street New York, NY 10021
Interfaith Medical Center	1545 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11213
Jamaica Hospital Medical Center	8900 Van Wyck Expy, Richmond Hill, NY 11418
Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center	585 Schenectady Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203
Maimonides Medical Center	4802 Tenth Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219
Maimonides Midwood Community Hospital	2525 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, NY 11229
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	1275 York Avenue, New York, NY 10065
Mercy Hospital	1000 N Village Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11570
Nassau University Medical Center	2201 Hempstead Tpke, East Meadow, NY 11554
NewYork Presbyterian/Allen Hospital	5141 Broadway New York, NY 10034
NewYork Presbyterian/Brooklyn Methodist Hospital	506 Sixth Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215
NewYork Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center	630 West 168 th Street, New York, NY 10032
NewYork Presbyterian/Allen Hospital	5141 Broadway, New York, NY 10034
NewYork Presbyterian/Lower Manhattan Hospital	170 William Street New York, NY 10038
NewYork Presbyterian/Queens Hospital	56-45 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355
NewYork Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center	525 East 68 th Street, New York, 10065
Northwell/Cohen Children's Medical Center	269-01 76 th Avenue, New Hyde Park, NY 11040
Northwell/Glen Cove Hospital	101 St Andrews Lane, Glen Cove, NY 11542
Northwell/Lenox Hill Hospital	100 East 77 St, New York, NY 10021
Northwell/Long Island Jewish Forest Hills	102-01 66 Road, Forest Hills, NY 11375
Northwell/Long Island Jewish Medical Center	270-05 76 th Avenue New Hyde Park, NY 11040
Northwell/Long Island Jewish Valley Stream	900 Franklin Avenue Valley Stream, NY 11580

Alternate Facility	Physical Address
Northwell/North Shore University Hospital	300 Community Drive, Manhasset, NY 11030
Northwell/Plainview Hospital	888 Old Country Road, Plainview NY 11803
Northwell/South Oaks Hospital	400 Sunrise Highway, Amityville, NY 11701
Northwell/Syosset Hospital	221 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset, NY 11791
NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue	462 First Avenue, New York, NY 10016
NYC Health + Hospitals/Carter	1752 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10035
NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst	79-01 Broadway, Elmhurst, NY 11373
NYC Health + Hospitals/Gouverneur	227 Madison Street, New York, NY 10002
NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem	506 Lenox Avenue, New York, NY 10037
NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County	451 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203
NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan	1901 First Avenue, New York, NY 10029
NYC Health + Hospitals/Queens	82-68 164 th Street, Jamaica, NY 11432
NYC Health + Hospitals/South Brooklyn Health	2601 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11235
NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull	760 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY 11206
NYS Health + Hospitals/Coler	900 Main Street, Roosevelt Island, NY 10044
NYU Langone Hospital - Long Island	259 First Street, Mineola, NY 11501
NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital	301 East 17 th Street, New York, NY 10003
NYU Langone/Tisch Hospital	550 First Avenue, New York, NY 10016
NYU Langone Hospital – Brooklyn	150 55 th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11220
NYU Langone/Rusk Rehabilitation	400 East 34 Street, New York, NY 10016
St. Francis Hospital and Heart Center	100 Port Washington Blvd, Roslyn, NY 11576
St. John's Episcopal Hospital S. Shore	327 Beach 19 th Street, Far Rockaway, NY 11691
SUNY Downstate	450 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203
The Brooklyn Hospital Center	121 Dekalb Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11201
University Hospital at Downstate	445 Lenox Road, Brooklyn, NY 11203
Wyckoff Heights Medical Center	374 Stockholm Street, Brooklyn, NY 11237

How will claims for services received at Mount Sinai Health System be paid if they are no longer participating?

Anthem will issue payment for covered services directly to the member and the member will be responsible for paying the hospital. If the hospital no longer files claims to Anthem directly, the member must submit the claim and a copy of the bill to:

Anthem Blue Cross
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 Mount Sinai Health System or are scheduled for treatment at Mount Sinai Health System, please call The Empire Plan at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and press or say 2 for the Hospital Program. The customer service representatives can answer any questions you may have as well as assist you in selecting a participating hospital.

These changes have no impact on the Empire Plan Medical/Surgical Program administered by UnitedHealthcare. Paid-in-full services for anesthesia, radiology or pathology are only available at a network hospital. Members may continue to use the same Empire Plan participating physicians or seek the services of non-participating providers using Basic Medical Program benefits. If you are seeing a provider that has admitting privileges at one of Anthem's participating hospitals and you need hospitalization, ask the provider to admit you into a participating hospital instead of using Mount Sinai Health System.

Please visit anthembluecross.com/nys updates.

We appreciate your understanding during this transition.

Sincerely,



Daniel Jorgenson
Regional Vice President, Provider Solutions



We're here for you – in many languages

The law requires us to include a message in all of these different languages. Curious what they say? Here's the English version: "You have the right to get help in your language for free. Just call the Member Services number on your ID card." Visually impaired? You can also ask for other formats of this document.

Spanish Usted tiene derecho a recibir ayuda en su idioma en forma gratuita. Simplemente llame al número de Servicios para Miembros que figura en su tarjeta de identificación.

Chinese 𠂇斗囉縹手德伝 𠂇𠂇婆妨 dm²o 褒 x² 委 𠂇 𠂇 ID 1 算 卦 褒姐 2. 姐 x² 委 𠂇 嘉
翬 c² 劍 𠂇 脾夾眺 s² 灑 息 囉 鳩 𠂇 婆 囉 褒 RV 嵩 羊 嵩 婆

Vietnamese Quý vị có quyền nhận miễn phí trợ giúp bằng ngôn ngữ của mình. Chỉ cần gọi số Dịch vụ dành cho thành viên trên thẻ ID của quý vị. Bị khiếm thị? Quý vị cũng có thể hỏi xin định dạng khác của tài liệu này."

Tagalog May karapatan ka na makakuha ng tulong sa iyong wika nang libre. Tawagan lamang ang numero ng Member Services sa iyong ID card. May kapansanan ka ba sa paningin? Maaari ka ring humiling ng iba pang format ng dokumentong ito.

Russian Вы имеете право на получение бесплатной помощи на вашем языке. Просто позвоните по номеру обслуживания клиентов, указанному на вашей идентификационной карте. Пациенты с нарушением зрения могут заказать документ в другом формате.

Armenian Դուք իրավունք ունեք ստանալ անվշար օգնություն ձեր լեզվով: Պարզապես զանգահարեք Անդամների սպասարկման կենտրոն, որի հեռախոսահամարը 112ված է ձեր ID քարտի վրա: Farsi شما این حق را دارید تا به صورت رایگان به "Farsi Services" زبان مادری تان کمک دریافته کنید. کافی است با شماره خدمات اعضا درج شده روی کارت شناسایی خود تماس بگیرید." دچار اختلال بینایی Member هستید؟ می توانید این سند را به فرمت های دیگری نیز درخواست دهید.

French Vous pouvez obtenir gratuitement de l'aide dans votre langue. Il vous suffit d'appeler le numéro réservé aux membres qui figure sur votre carte d'identification. Si

vous êtes malvoyant, vous pouvez également demander à obtenir ce document sous d'autres formats.

Arabic .ما عليك سوى الاتصال برقم لك الحق في الحصول على مساعدة بلغتك ا
خدمة الأعضاء الموجود على بطاقة الهوية. هل أنت ضعيف البصر؟ يمكنك طلب أشكال
.أخرى من هذا المستند

۴۹۰۴ - ۲۱۸

Haitian Se dwa ou pou w jwenn èd nan lang ou gratis. Annik rele nimewo Sèvis Manm ki sou kat ID ou a. Èske ou gen pwoblèm pou wè? Ou ka mande dokiman sa a nan lòt fòma tou.

Italian Ricevere assistenza nella tua lingua è un tuo diritto. Chiama il numero dei Servizi per i membri riportato sul tuo tesserino. Sei ipovedente? È possibile richiedere questo documento anche in formati diversi

Polish Masz prawo do uzyskania darmowej pomocy udzielonej w Twoim języku. Wystarczy zadzwonić na numer działu pomocy znajdujący się na Twojej karcie identyfikacyjnej.

TTY/TTD:711 It's important we treat you fairly We follow federal civil rights laws in our health programs and activities. By calling Member Services, our members can get free in-language support, and free aids and services if you have a disability. We don't discriminate, exclude people, or treat them differently on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. For people whose primary language isn't English, we offer free language assistance services through interpreters and other written languages. Interested in these services? Call the Member Services number on your ID card for help (TTY/TDD: 711). If you think we failed in any of these areas, you can mail a complaint to: Compliance Coordinator, P.O. Box 27401, Mail Drop VA2002-N160, Richmond, VA 23279, or directly to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights at 200 Independence Avenue, SW; Room 509F, HHH Building; Washington, D.C. 20201. You can also call 1-800-368-1019 (TDD: 1-800-537-7697) or visit <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>