



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

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

FROM: Sharon Smith, Health Benefits Specialist

DATE: December 6, 2016

RE: CarePoint Health No Longer Participating in Empire Blue Cross/
BlueShield's Hospital Network for the Empire Plan and HMO Plans
Effective 1/1/17

This memo is notification that CarePoint Health and Empire BlueCross/BlueShield were unable to reach a settlement in current negotiations. CarePoint Health consists of the following three hospitals:

Bayonne Medical Center
29 E. 29th Street
Bayonne, NJ 07002

Christ Hospital
176 Palisade Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Hoboken University Medical Center
308 Willow Avenue
Hoboken, NJ 07030

As a result, effective January 1, 2017, these facilities will no longer participate in Blue Cross/Blue Shields network for both the Empire Plan and their HMO plans.

The following services are the **ONLY** services provided by a CarePoint Health facility which will be covered on an in-network basis:

1. Cases of emergency;
2. If no in-network hospital exists that can provide the services required;
3. If a network hospital is not available within a 30 mile radius from the member's home;
4. For continuation of care for pregnancy or health risk; or
5. For any services that were previously preauthorized.

All other services will be covered on an out-of-network basis and the member will be responsible for paying ten percent (10%) of the billed charges for covered services up to the annual coinsurance maximum amount (some charges may be covered under other parts of their plan coverage).

Payments will be sent directly to the member within 45 days of receipt of all information necessary to process a claim, and the member will be responsible for paying the hospital. Claims can be filed by submitting them to Empire BlueCross BlueShield, New York State Service Center, PO Box 1407, Church Street Station, New York, New York, 10008-1407.

Since CarePoint Health will no longer be paid in-network, the following may occur due to the termination:

1. Patients may be refused treatment for non-emergency services or elective treatment at CarePoint Health facilities;
2. 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;
3. Patients may be required to make payment up front before services are rendered;
4. 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; and
5. CarePoint Health facilities will no longer be required to bill Empire BlueCross BlueShield directly so enrollees may be responsible for filing claims to obtain reimbursement.

Members should seek health care at the following hospitals which continue participation in the network to avoid difficulties and unnecessary medical expenses:

Englewood Hospital & Medical Center
350 Engle Street
Englewood, NJ 07631

Jersey City Medical Center
355 Grand Street
Jersey City, NJ 07304

Valley Hospital
223 N. Van Dien Street
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

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Members currently receiving services from a CarePoint Health facility or who are scheduled for treatment at a CarePoint Health facility should call Empire BlueCross BlueShield at (800)495-9323 Monday through Friday (between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm). Customer Service Reps will answer any questions and assist them in selecting an alternative participating hospital. Also, members who have received services at one of these three hospital in the last 12 months will receive a letter notifying them of the terminations.

There will be no changes to the medical portion of the Empire Plan administered by United HealthCare but remember that all 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 physicians using their basic medical benefits. If they see a physician who has admitting privileges at a participating hospital and need hospitalization, the member should ask the physician to admit them to one of those participating hospitals and not a CarePoint Health facility.

Any help in sharing this information with your membership is appreciated.

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