



New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association

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TO: Chief Sector Stewards

FROM: Sharon Smith
Health Benefits Specialist

DATE: January 4, 2019

RE: Empire Plan Acupuncturists' Coverage

As mentioned at the Executive Assembly Meeting in Syracuse, the Empire Plan has begun adding Acupuncturists to the Participating Provider Network (currently in New York State only). Several providers have already joined the network and are listed on the online participating directory. The network will continue to grow as United HealthCare obtains more contracts so interested members should periodically check the online directory for updates.

The following message appears on Civil Service's website under the "What's New" section of NYSHIP Online:

Acupuncturists Join Empire Plan Network – The Empire Plan participating provider network has been expanded to include licensed acupuncturists. Visits to network providers are subject to the applicable office visit copayment. To locate a network acupuncturist, visit the online provider directory at www.empireplanproviders.com or call 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and press or say 1 for the Medical/Surgical Program. Network providers may not be available in all geographic regions; however, the network will continue to expand throughout 2019."

To avoid unexpected out-of-pocket costs, members should check online or call United HealthCare (as noted above) **before receiving services** to ensure the provider is in-network. To find a provider online, the member must type the word "acupuncturist" or "acupuncture" in the search box.

Please share this information with your membership; and should anyone have any questions, feel free to contact me at extension 236.

SS

cc: NYSCOPBA Jt. Committee on Health Benefits