



New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association

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TO: NYSCOPBA Members

FROM: Sharon Smith, Health Benefits Specialist

DATE: March 23, 2020

RE: Update on NYSHIP Coverage Through the Empire Plan Due to the Novel Coronavirus

Below is an update on the Empire Plan's coverage for the COVID19.

Cost Sharing Waivers for COVID19 Testing: Member cost sharing requirements for COVID19 testing at approved locations are waived. Cost sharing waiver applies to all active Empire Plan enrollees, early retirees and Medicare-eligible retirees.

Early Prescription Refills: to ensure member access to medications, members are allowed one emergency prescription refill up to a 30-day supply for three prescriptions of retail medications and one prescription of specialty medications during a 90-day period. Normal copay rules apply.

Managing COVID19 Anxiety: visit Beacon Lens at beaconlens.com for advice and tips on managing stress and anxiety due to the virus. Additional online resources on this topic are available in a guide from the NYS Office of Mental Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

Nurseline: the Empire Plan Nurseline is fully prepared to share information with members on the COVID19 virus and triage them to appropriate level of care as necessary based on the severity of their symptoms. The Nurseline's number is 1-877-769-7447, Option 5.

Members can keep apprised of the COVID19 virus by visiting <http://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home> where they can also sign up for e-mail updates.

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

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