



New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association

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TO: Chief Sector Stewards

FROM: Sharon Smith
Health Benefits Specialist

DATE: June 29, 2020

RE: Update on Empire Plan Acupuncturists' Coverage

This memo is an update of my memo dated February 19, 2020, regarding the addition of Acupuncturists to the Empire Plan's Participating Provider Network (currently in New York State only).

As previously reported, the Acupuncturist network will expand effective July 1st. Through the enhanced network, members will have access to 453 unique providers at 535 locations throughout New York State. This is more than originally anticipated; however, the end goal continues to be a robust network which best serves the members. These providers will be listed on the provider directory and members will be able to search by name, provider type and geographic distance within a desired radius.

Communications will be sent to members who have seen an Acupuncturist in the last 12 months informing them of this network. Members who received services from an out-of-network provider will be informed of the enhanced in-network directory in the event they wish to change to an in-network provider. Those currently using an in-network provider will be informed of the new status of that provider.

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