

**c/o Eastern Suffolk BOCES  
201 Sunrise Highway  
Patchogue, New York 11772  
Telephone: 631-687-3140  
Fax: 631-687-3067**

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October 17, 2019

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

On October 1, 2019, we forwarded you a letter providing information pertaining to the Medicare Advantage Plan that will go into effect on January 1, 2020 for our Medicare primary members. I would like to clarify a couple of points regarding the information presented in response to questions that have been asked by some of our members.

1. The East End Health Plan Medicare Advantage Plan includes both the Medicare Primary portion, the EEHP secondary portion and the Prescription Drug portion of the current Plan. Providers will submit claims directly to Empire BlueCross BlueShield Retiree Solutions to process the entire claim. There will be no need for the provider to submit a claim to Medicare first and then have any remaining balance submitted to BlueCross/BlueShield to process any remaining balance under the East End Health Plan as secondary coverage.
2. When you get medical care, your share of the cost is the same whether your doctor or provider is in network or out of network. As long as your provider participates in the Medicare Program, the claim will be processed by Empire MediBlue (PPO) in accordance with the East End Health Plan benefit structure.
3. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rules requires that we inform the member that they have the right to opt out of the Medicare Advantage Plan. If a member chooses to opt out of the East End Health Plan Medicare Advantage Plan, they will not have health Insurance coverage through the EEHP. They can obtain coverage through their employer (the School District or Agency) if the employer offers an alternate Plan. The majority of the participating school district in the EEHP only offer health insurance coverage through the EEHP. There are two participating



School Districts/Agencies who, through contract negotiations, provide health insurance coverage through a different Health Insurance Program in compliance with the EEHP Trust Document. The member, if they decide to opt-out, must continue to be enrolled with Medicare and obtain health insurance coverage through the private sector.

4. The Medicare Part B premium reimbursement made by the School District to its member will remain in effect.
5. The prescription drug program as currently exists will remain the same. Depending on the nature of medications being prescribed, there may be a change in the co-pay that you will pay. The results of the Prescription Drug analysis that was performed as part of the study indicated the co-pay of the majority of the medications being dispensed to our members remained the same or was reduced. There were some medications, based on their formulary classification, resulted in a higher co-pay. We will be identifying the members that are using these medications to discuss how these will be handled.

We are holding regional information meetings at the below locations on the dates indicated. I would strongly encourage you to attend one or more of these meetings. Additional meetings will be held in November and December 2019. We will notify you once the dates and locations have been finalized. For the members that reside out of the area or cannot attend one of these meetings, and have questions, I would suggest that you contact the Empire Welcome Center at **833-848-8729** Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM Eastern Time, except holidays. TTY users should call 711. If you prefer, you can contact the East End Health Plan office at 631-687-3140 or e-mail [fperry@eehp.org](mailto:fperry@eehp.org) with your questions and/or concerns.

**October 22, 2019**

Westhampton Beach School District  
High School Large Group Instruction Room  
49 Lilac Road  
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978  
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

**October 23, 2019**

Southampton School District  
High School Auditorium  
141 Narrow Lane  
Southampton, NY 11968  
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

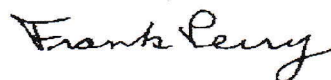
**October 24, 2019**

Southold School District  
High School Auditorium  
420 Oaklawn Avenue  
Southold, NY 11971  
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

**October 25, 2019**

Harry B. Ward Technical Center  
970 North Griffing Avenue  
Riverhead, NY 11901  
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Sincerely;



Frank Perry, Operations Administrator.

Copy to: School District Health Plan Coordinator