

**Hi everyone! Hope all is well. Here is some important information.**

**Informational Update Vol 12 # 12**

**1. NYC Medicare Advantage Plan** – By now, many of you are aware that the judge dealing with the new NYC Medicare Advantage Plus Plan issued a ruling which did the following:

- Changed the start date of the new NYC Medicare Advantage Plus Plan to **April 1, 2022**. The previous start date was January 1, 2022.
- Extended the Opt-Out date to **March 31, 2022**. The previous opt-out date was October 31, 2021. If you already opted out, you do not have to do anything.
- Opened a window from **April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022 to tryout the new NYC Medicare Advantage Plus Plan. If you initially decided to go into this new plan and do not like it during this 3 month period, you can opt out up to June 30; you will be able to return to your old plan. If you opted out initially and now wish to try it out, you may enroll in the new plan from April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022.**

Below is some other important information about the new NYC Medicare Advantage Plus Plan that you should know. :

- ❖▪ On Jan 1, those members in Senior Care will be paying a Part B deductible of \$233 (up \$30 from last year) and \$50 for GHI – Emblem Health for a total of \$283. Any deductible paid between Jan 1 and April 1, will be carried over to the NYC Medicare Advantage Plus Plan for those enrolling in the new plan
- ❖▪ Starting Jan 1, there will be a co-pay of \$15 for all medical services under Senior Care. Those members who will go into the new plan on April 1, 2022, will continue to pay the \$15 co-pay, except for a family doctor.
- ❖▪ The Office of Labor Relations (OLR) has put out a publication giving you in-depth information and updates about the new NYC Medicare Advantage Plus Plan. You can download this publication from either the OLR website, [www1.nyc.gov/site/olr/health/healthhome.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/olr/health/healthhome.page), or the CSA Retiree Welfare Fund Website, [www.csawf.org](http://www.csawf.org).

❖ You should have received in September an Enrollment Guide by snail mail or email. You can now download an updated Guide from either the OLR website or the CSA Retiree Fund Website.

❖ One of the unique facets of the new plan is you can go to either an in-network provider or out-of-network provider providing the providers take Medicare. Your only payments are deductibles and \$15 co-pays. All the out-of-network doctor has to do to get payment for Medicare covered services is bill the plan directly

**2. Publix** – In early December, Express-Scripts sent you a letter indicating that Publix is no longer in the network and that your drug plan may no longer cover Publix drug claims. They recommended you use them for home delivery or an in-network pharmacy like Walgreens or CVS.

Subsequently, many members who use Publix started the process of changing over to Walgreen's or CVS. Then, at almost the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, the Publix pharmacies found out that Publix was back in the network as they reached an agreement with Express-Scripts. Members were jumping for joy when they heard the news.

The upshot of this saga is that Publix remains in the network and you can continue to use them as your network pharmacy.

**3. Health & Welfare Meeting** - As you probably are aware, the “live” Health & Welfare on Jan 10 was canceled and is being replaced with a zoom meeting. Once I get more information on this meeting we will notify you. Attached are handouts that you were supposed to receive at the Jan 10 meeting. They include the Fund benefit chart, Deductibles and Part B & D premiums, and the Part D drug plan.

Please print and read them.

#### **4. Question of the Month**

**Q.** I did not receive my SSA letter listing my 2021 Social Security benefits and deductions. How can I get a copy?\_\_

**A.** There are two ways: 1) you can call Social Security or visit your local Social Security office and request the SSA letter. Have a previous SSA letter or facsimile of the letter available with you so that you can clearly describe to the SSA agent what you want, OR 2) download a copy from the SSA website, [www.SSA.com](http://www.SSA.com). This will require your having an online SSA account, which, if you don't have one, you can open one on the SSA website by just following the prompts.

Have a great & safe day!

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