

01-2020

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE ALL-EMPLOYEES MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 29, 2020

EMPLOYEE MEDICAL HEALTH PLAN OF SUFFOLK COUNTY (EMHP) IMPORTANT CHANGE TO YOUR ACUPUNCTURE & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BENEFITS

Effective April 1, 2020

As part of our continuing effort to provide our members with important updates regarding the Employee Medical Health Plan of Suffolk County (EMHP), the Labor/Management Committee, which oversees the EMHP, would like to provide you with important information concerning your Acupuncture and Occupational Therapy benefits.

ACUPUNCTURE BENEFITS

Effective **April 1, 2020**, the Acupuncture benefits administered under the EMHP will change as follow:

- **TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS LIMITED** - Total of 60 visits per calendar year per each covered enrollee, whether you are utilizing an in-network or an out-of-network Acupuncturist.
- **IN-NETWORK ACUPUNCTURIST** - If you utilize an in-network Acupuncturist, you will be responsible for your \$30.00 co-pay per visit. This benefit has not changed.
- **OUT-OF-NETWORK ACUPUNCTURIST** - If you utilize an out-of-network Acupuncturist, the total the plan will pay per visit will be up to \$30.00; you will be responsible for your \$30.00 co-pay per visit and EMHP will reimburse you up to \$30.00 per visit, depending upon provider billed charges. In no event will the EMHP pay more than the billed charges.

Please note the out-of-network Acupuncture benefits are not subject to plan deductible or 20% copayment requirements as applied to other out-of-network benefits. Be advised that, pursuant to the terms of your health benefits Plan, the Employee Medical Health Plan (EMHP), assignment of benefits to out-of-network Providers is prohibited.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BENEFITS

Effective **April 1, 2020**, the Hospital Based Occupational Therapy benefits administered under the Employee Medical Health Plan will change as follows (underlined is new):

- **IN-NETWORK OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY** - If you utilize an in-network Occupational Therapist, you will be responsible for your \$30.00 co-pay per visit. This benefit has not changed.

- **OUT-OF-NETWORK OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY** - If you utilize an out-of-network Occupational Therapist, the total the plan will pay per visit will be up to \$50; you will be responsible for your \$30.00 co-pay per visit and EMHP will reimburse you up to \$50.00 per visit, depending upon provider billed charges. In no event will the EMHP pay more than the billed charges. Please note the out-of-network occupational therapy benefits are not subject to plan deductible or 20% copayment requirements as applied to other out of network benefits. Be advised that, pursuant to the terms of your health benefits plan, the Employee Medical Health Plan of Suffolk County (EMHP), assignment of benefits to out of network providers is prohibited, this benefit has not changed.
- **HOSPITAL-BASED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY – INPATIENT** – There continues to be no inpatient hospital benefits for Occupational Therapy.
- **HOSPITAL-BASED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY – OUTPATIENT** – Benefits are available for outpatient Occupational Therapy in a hospital-based facility only when all of the following conditions are met:
 - The treatments are ordered by a doctor; and
 - The treatments are in connection with the same illness for which you had previously been hospitalized or related to inpatient or outpatient surgery; and
 - The treatments must start within six (6) months from your discharge from the hospital or within six (6) months from date surgery was performed; and
 - No payment will be made for Occupational Therapy given after three hundred sixty-five (365) days from the date you were discharged from the hospital or the date of surgery.


Benefits are only available for treatment in an Outpatient Hospital Facility, when the treatment starts within six (6) months from the date of discharge from the hospital or from date of surgery for a duration of no more than 365 days after discharge or surgery.

You must pre-certify this benefit no later than the 20th visit.

As with any out-of-network Provider, that Provider can choose to balance bill you for the difference between the plan payment and the billed amount. **That difference is the patient's responsibility.** This could mean significant out of pocket expenses for you if you are receiving services from an out-of-network Provider.

Important Note: Acupuncture and Occupational Therapy benefits are only covered during the active phase of treatment and not during the maintenance phase and must be considered medically necessary and appropriate.

To find an in-network Provider in your area please refer to the Employee Medical Health Plans's medical administrator's, Empire BlueCross BlueShield (EBCBS), website at www.empireblue.com/emhp or call EBCBS at 1(800)939-7515.



 Dennis M. Cohen
 Chief Deputy County Executive

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One copy per employee/retiree