



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ALL-EMPLOYEES MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 16, 2017

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

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 benefits.

Effective June 1, 2017, the reimbursement level for **non-participating** (out-of-network) Acupuncturist is being changed to the same level as a **PARTICIPATING** (in-network) Acupuncturist. When seeking the services of a **non-participating** Acupuncturist, you will be responsible for a \$25.00 copayment per visit **as well as any charges above the maximum allowable in-network rate**. Please be advised that any non-participating provider (out-of-network), such as the Acupuncturist, can bill you for the difference between the plan's maximum allowance (i.e., in-network rate) and his or her billed amount. In light of this change, this could mean significant out-of-pocket expenses for you if you are obtaining the services from a non-participating (out-of-network) Acupuncturist. There is no capped maximum amount that you may incur for these out-of-pocket expenses. Therefore, this benefit is not subject to the annual maximum out-of-pocket cap of \$1,550 per individual or family, based upon your enrollment and is not subject to the \$550 per individual deductible.

Important Benefit Coverage Information: Acupuncture benefits must be considered medically necessary and appropriate and are covered during the active phase of treatment. Coverage will cease once you enter the maintenance phase when no further improvement in the condition can be reasonably expected.

The EMHP Committee encourages you to review the EMHP Benefit Booklet to confirm current coverage and benefits prior to obtaining medical services and/or supplies. The EMHP Benefit Booklet is available to all members via the EMHP website at www.emhp.org.

To avoid any balance billing for covered services that are medically necessary, you should always seek services from a participating (in-network) provider.

Please note that at this time there are approximately 128 participating Acupuncturist locations in Suffolk County. Please refer to the EMHP major medical third party administrator's, Empire BlueCross BlueShield (EBCBS), website at www.empireblue.com/emhp or call EBCBS at 1(800)939-7515 to find a participating Acupuncturist in your area.

Dennis M. Cohen
Chief Deputy County Executive

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One copy per employee/retiree