



Building Service 32BJ Health Fund

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www.32bjfunds.org
800-551-3225 Benefits Information

Kyle E. Bragg, *Chairman*
Howard I. Rothschild, *Secretary*
Peter Goldberger, *Executive Director*
Sara Rothstein, *Fund Director*

April 8, 2021

Dear 32BJ Health Fund Plan Participant,

I want to alert you to the possibility that – as of June 1, 2021 – the New York-Presbyterian Hospital system may no longer accept Empire BlueCross BlueShield insurance. This could impact every person using the Empire BlueCross BlueShield network, including 32BJ Health Fund participants and their families. If this happens, you could pay thousands of dollars more for care at New York-Presbyterian hospitals, doctors, and outpatient facilities. This includes Weill Cornell Medical Center and all other New York-Presbyterian facilities.

Are there high-quality hospital systems that I can go to without paying an additional co-pay? Yes. There are over 100 New York hospitals that will remain in-network without any change to the current co-pays. Included are world renowned hospital systems such as Mount Sinai Health System, Montefiore Medical Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and Hospital for Special Surgery.

What can I do now to make sure I get high quality affordable health care? Call the 32BJ Benefit Funds at 800-551-3225. We can help you get the care you need.

Why would New York-Presbyterian stop accepting our insurance? The contract between Empire – our network administrator – and the New York-Presbyterian hospital system expires on May 31, 2021. The leadership of our Fund, along with leaders of benefit funds throughout New York City, have asked them to negotiate a new contract that provides New Yorkers with access to high-quality care at affordable prices.

If they cannot reach an agreement, New York-Presbyterian hospitals will be out of our network starting June 1, 2021. See the enclosed list of hospitals that would be affected by this change.

Is New York-Presbyterian more costly than other New York hospitals? Yes. We analyzed the cost of routine procedures performed at New York-Presbyterian and other hospitals and outpatient facilities. Our analysis showed significant difference in costs for these procedures:

Type of Care	NYC Hospitals, Average Costs	NY Presbyterian, Average Costs
Inpatient Care		
Bariatric Surgery	\$41,742	\$51,490
Having a Baby, Cesarean-Section	\$29,553	\$41,219
Having a Baby, Vaginal Delivery	\$19,933	\$28,035
Outpatient Care		
Colonoscopy	\$3,638	\$8,991

Who pays these higher prices?

You do. The 32BJ Health Fund is self-insured. This means that we use Empire BlueCross BlueShield to provide our network, authorize medical care, and pay claims. But Empire pays those claims with our dollars, and the Fund pays Empire a flat administrative fee. Every dollar we spend on higher priced healthcare is a dollar we can't use to make other kinds of care more affordable for you. Fund leadership asked NewYork-Presbyterian to commit to a number of measures that would keep 32BJ benefits affordable for you and they have refused to discuss these issues with us. This included a request for NewYork-Presbyterian to agree to all of the following:

- Agree to fair and reasonable price charges for 32BJ members
- Allow the Fund to offer you new, high-quality clinical programs with \$0 copay, much like the Bariatric and Joint Replacement surgery programs at Mount Sinai, and our new 32BJ Maternity program.
- Allow Empire BlueCross BlueShield to offer networks that exclude NewYork-Presbyterian if it does not agree to measures that would keep 32BJ benefits affordable.

If you have questions

You can call the 32BJ Benefit Funds at 800-551-3225 with any questions about these possible changes to the 32BJ Health Fund network. We will notify you if NewYork-Presbyterian is no longer in our network.

Sincerely,



Peter Goldberger,
Executive Director of the 32BJ Benefit Funds