NYSHIP Dependent Eligibility Verification Project

The NYS Employee Benefits Division (EBD) of the Department of Civil Service is conducting a “Dependent Eligibility Verification Audit” (DEVA) to ensure that only eligible dependents are enrolled in employees’ family health insurance coverage.

Notices about this audit were mailed to enrollees’ homes, beginning in late 2015. Additional notices will be mailed during the summer explaining what documents need to be submitted during July 5, 2016 – August 19, 2016. If you are required to respond and you do not, or you do so after the deadline, coverage for your affected dependents may be cancelled retroactively to January 1, 2016. Samples of enrollee communications related to DEVA are posted to the NYSHIP website, https://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits/login/ (what is posted on this site as of May 3, 2016 can also be found below), in the “Current Topics” section. Please consult this site and be prepared to respond prior to the deadline.

From NYSHIP site:

Your employer-sponsored health insurance coverage through NYSHIP is a valuable benefit, but it is also costly to provide. It becomes more costly, to you and your employer, when NYSHIP is asked to pay health insurance claims for individuals who are not eligible for coverage.

Beginning in December 2015, NYSHIP will conduct a Dependent Eligibility Verification Audit, similar to the audit conducted in 2009, to help ensure that every participant who receives benefits is entitled to them.

In November 2015, the Department of Civil Service mailed a letter to all NYSHIP enrollees with family coverage to inform them of the audit, introduce the vendor [Health Management Systems, Inc. (HMS)] that will conduct the audit and provide an overview of what to expect.

In December 2015, HMS mailed an Amnesty letter to all NYSHIP enrollees with family coverage to provide them an opportunity to remove any ineligible dependent(s) without incurring any liability for repayment of claims paid on their behalf. The special amnesty period has now ended.

During the Verification Phase, enrollees will be required to provide documentation of eligibility for coverage under NYSHIP. Due to the size of the NYSHIP population, this will be conducted in three phases, as follows:

- **Participating Agencies:** February 29 - April 15, 2016
- **Retirees of NYS and Participating Employers:** May 2 - June 17, 2016
- **Active Employees of NYS:** July 5 - August 19, 2016

It is very important that enrollees respond and provide copies of acceptable proofs of eligibility (such as birth certificates or marriage certificates) in a timely manner during their verification phase. Dependents of enrollees who fail to respond will be removed from coverage retroactively to January 1, 2016. In addition, enrollees may be responsible for repaying all health insurance claims for ineligible dependents as early as the date the dependent became ineligible.