County of Orange – Division of Risk Management

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Risk Management has learned that an ***Empire Plan Report***, which will be mailed to enrollees' homes in the comings weeks, will be announcing important Empire Plan changes for 2009.

PARTICIPATING PROVIDER COPAYMENT	**$20**
OUTPATIENT SURGERY LOCATIONS COPAYMENT	**$30**
EMERGENCY ROOM SERVICES COPAYMENT	**$70**
DIAGNOSTIC OUTPATIENT SERVICES COPAYMENT	**$40**
OUTPATIENT SURGERY COPAYMENT	**$60**

NON-PREFERRED DRUG COPAYMENT
      30 DAY SUPPLY – RETAIL AND MAIL   **$40**
      90 DAY SUPPLY – RETAIL   **$70**
      90 DAY SUPPLY – MAIL   **$65**

The **Empire Plan** will be moving to a Flexible Formulary**.** A **Half-Tablet Program (at half copay)** went into effect **10/01/08.** A **Specialty Drug Program** (limited use drugs for specific illnesses) will be implemented in **Spring '09.**

United Healthcare/Optum will be the new **Mental Health and Substance Abuse** insurer/administrator, **replacing GHI/Value Options. OptumHealth Call Center** will begin taking calls (1-877-769-7447) **November 3, 2008. There will be a transition period for benefits.**

MRA, **CT**, **PET** and **Nuclear Medicine** diagnostic procedures, as well as **MRI**, will need pre-notification.

Center of Excellence for Bariatric Surgery Program and Diabetes Education Center

Chronic Kidney Disease Management Program for Empire Plan **Primary** individuals.

Herpes Zoster (Shingles) Vaccine will be a covered **NETWORK** benefit (No Non-Network coverage).

Please note that the **Empire Plan** will be issuing **new cards** to all <u>current</u> enrollees that will have a new COPAYMENT code for January 2009. There are no changes in membership ID numbers. These cards should be arriving at enrollee homes in December 2008.

The ***Empire Plan Report*** will explain these and any other changes in detail, so please read the brochure carefully when you receive it.