



## UnitedHealthcare's Empire Plan Network Expanded

### Now Includes Acupuncturists and Quest Diagnostics

#### Acupuncturists

UnitedHealthcare is excited to announce that The Empire Plan has expanded its participating provider network to include licensed acupuncturists. Visits to network acupuncture providers are subject to the applicable office visit copayment. To locate a network acupuncturist, visit the online provider directory at [www.empireplanproviders.com](http://www.empireplanproviders.com) or call 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and press or say 1 for the Medical/Surgical Program. Network providers may not be available in all geographic regions; however, the network will continue to expand throughout 2019.

Does your practice include a licensed acupuncturist? If so, please notify your Empire Plan Network contact or write to us at Empire Plan Network Management at PO Box 2300, Kingston, NY 12402-2300.

#### Quest Diagnostics

Quest Diagnostics became an Empire Plan Network laboratory provider effective January 1, 2019. Quest has 6,000 in-network patient locations nationwide. LabCorp and numerous local and regional labs also remain available as in-network options for laboratory services.

Remember, Empire Plan Network providers are required to use a network laboratory when they submit lab specimens and bloodwork directly to a laboratory for analysis. To view all network options for laboratory services, go to [www.empireplanproviders.com](http://www.empireplanproviders.com).

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## Clarification on Empire Plan Copayment Changes and Copayment Stacking

#### Copayment Changes

As indicated in the January 2019 Empire Plan Copayment Guide, the copayments for certain Empire Plan employee groups changed effective January 1, 2019. Changes included an increase to \$25 for office visit, office surgery, laboratory, and radiology services and a new \$30 copayment amount for similar services at an Urgent Care Center.

#### Copayment Stacking

As a reminder, if an Empire Plan member utilizes a participating provider for an office surgery, office visit, or urgent care visit and has a radiology and/or laboratory service performed, two copayments apply for that date of service. There is a maximum of two copayments per service date, per provider that can be charged. Copayment stacking rules did not change with the recent increase in copayments for certain employee groups, and stacking continues to apply in the Urgent Care Setting.

#### Copayment changes apply only to certain groups as noted in the Guide.

It is, therefore, important that you review the Copayment Guide and/or verify the patient's copayment liability via [UHCprovider.com](http://UHCprovider.com) or by calling 1-877-7NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447).

Additional changes are expected and will be communicated to you as they occur. Updated Copayment Guides will be mailed to you separately as needed.

## UnitedHealthcare Network Bulletin Articles & The Empire Plan

The following articles are included in the January 2019 issue of UnitedHealthcare's *Network Bulletin*. The table below denotes which articles apply to The Empire Plan and/or our Empire Plan Network providers. To access *Network Bulletin*, sign on to UHCprovider.com and select "News and Network Bulletin" in the "Resource Library" section (or select News and Network Bulletin in Quick Links at the bottom of the home page). Be sure to read the applicable articles and direct any questions you may have regarding Empire Plan impact to your Empire Plan network representative.

UHCprovider.com → Resource Library → News and Network Bulletin

<b>Network Bulletin: Article Topic</b>	
<b>JANUARY 2019</b>	
<b>Front &amp; Center</b>	
UnitedHealthcare Care Provider Administrative Guide for Commercial and Medicare Advantage	No
Go Paperless For a Chance to Win \$500	Yes
Radiology Program Procedure Code Changes — Effective Jan. 1, 2019	No
New and Updated Procedure Codes for CAR-T Cell Therapy — Effective Jan. 1, 2019	Yes
Changes in Advance Notification and Prior Authorization Requirements	No
New Prior Authorization Requirement for In-Patient Cerebral Seizure Video EEG Monitoring	No
HEDIS® Season is Here	No
Updates to Requirements for Specialty Medical Injectable Drugs for UnitedHealthcare Commercial, Community Plan and Medicare Advantage Members	No
UnitedHealthcare Commercial and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Outpatient Injectable Cancer Therapy Authorization Program Update	No
Pharmacy Update: Notice of Changes to Prior Authorization Requirements and Coverage Criteria for UnitedHealthcare Commercial and Oxford	No
UnitedHealthcare Genetic and Molecular Testing Prior Authorization/Notification Updates	No
Discontinuation of Reimbursement for Codes S9083 and S9088	Yes
Tell Us What You Think of Our Communications	No
Dental Clinical Policy & Coverage Guideline Updates	No
<b>UnitedHealthcare Commercial</b>	
UnitedHealthcare NexusACO® Benefit Plans are Growing in 2019	No
Jan. 1, 2019 Coding Update to the UnitedHealthcare Facility Outpatient Procedure Grouper Mapping	Yes
Update to UnitedHealthcare Commercial Opioid Programs	No
UnitedHealthcare Medical Policy, Medical Benefit Drug Policy and Coverage Determination Guideline Updates	See Specific Policy
TAKE NOTE: Annual CPT® and HCPCS Code Updates	Yes
UPDATED: Abnormal Uterine Bleeding and Uterine Fibroids	Yes
UPDATED: Athletic Pubalgia Surgery	Yes

UPDATED: Attended Polysomnography for Evaluation of Sleep Disorders	Yes
UPDATED: Balloon Sinus Ostial Dilation	Yes
UPDATED: Botulinum Toxins A and B	Yes
UPDATED: Bronchial Thermoplasty	Yes
UPDATED: Chemosensitivity and Chemoresistance Assays in Cancer	Yes
UPDATED: Clinical Trials	No
UPDATED: Computed Tomographic Colonography	Yes
UPDATED: Computerized Dynamic Posturography	Yes
UPDATED: Core Decompression for Avascular Necrosis	Yes
UPDATED: Corneal Hysteresis and Intraocular Pressure Measurement	Yes
UPDATED: Cytological Examination of Breast Fluids for Cancer Screening	Yes
UPDATED: Discogenic Pain Treatment	Yes
UPDATED: Durable Medical Equipment, Orthotics, Ostomy Supplies, Medical Supplies and Repairs/Replacements	Yes
UPDATED: Electrical Bioimpedance for Cardiac Output Measurement	Yes
UPDATED: Electrical Stimulation for the Treatment of Pain and Muscle Rehabilitation	Yes
UPDATED: Embolization of the Ovarian and Iliac Veins for Pelvic Congestion Syndrome	Yes
UPDATED: Enzyme Replacement Therapy	Yes
UPDATED: Epiduroscopy, Epidural Lysis of Adhesions and Functional Anesthetic Discography	Yes
UPDATED: Femoroacetabular Impingement Syndrome	Yes
UPDATED: Gastrointestinal Motility Disorders, Diagnosis and Treatment	Yes
UPDATED: High Frequency Chest Wall Compression Devices	Yes
UPDATED: Home Traction Therapy	Yes
UPDATED: Intrauterine Fetal Surgery	Yes
UPDATED: Laser Interstitial Thermal Therapy	Yes
UPDATED: Light and Laser Therapy for Cutaneous Lesions and Pilonidal Disease	Yes
UPDATED: Lithotripsy for Salivary Stones	Yes
UPDATED: Minimally Invasive Procedures for Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)	Yes
UPDATED: Molecular Oncology Testing for Cancer Diagnosis, Prognosis, and Treatment Decisions	Yes
UPDATED: Motorized Spinal Traction	Yes
UPDATED: Nerve Graft to Restore Erectile Function During Radical Prostatectomy	Yes
UPDATED: Neurophysiologic Testing and Monitoring	Yes

UPDATED: Occipital Neuralgia and Headache Treatment	Yes
UPDATED: Onpattro™ (Patisiran)	Yes
UPDATED: Plagiocephaly and Craniosynostosis Treatment	Yes
UPDATED: Platelet Derived Growth Factors for Treatment of Wounds	Yes
UPDATED: Preterm Labor Management	Yes
UPDATED: Preventive Care Services	Yes
UPDATED: Prolotherapy for Musculoskeletal Indications	Yes
UPDATED: Self-Administered Medications	No
UPDATED: Sensory Integration Therapy and Auditory Integration Training	Yes
UPDATED: Specialty Medication Administration — Site of Care Review Guidelines	No
UPDATED: Thermography	Yes
UPDATED: Virtual Upper Gastrointestinal Endoscopy	Yes
UPDATED: Visual Information Processing Evaluation and Orthoptic and Vision Therapy	Yes
UPDATED: Warming Therapy and Ultrasound Therapy for Wounds	Yes
UPDATED: Whole Exome and Whole Genome Sequencing	Yes
Site of Care Reviews for Certain Advanced Outpatient Imaging Procedures — REVISED EFFECTIVE DATE: Feb. 1, 2019	No
<b>UnitedHealthcare Reimbursement Policies</b>	
Coordinated Reimbursement Policy Announcement	See Specific Policy
Evaluation and Management (E/M) Policy	No
UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Reimbursement Policy	No
<b>UnitedHealthcare Community Plan</b> ~This section does not apply to The Empire Plan~	
<b>UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage</b> ~This section does not apply to The Empire Plan~	
<b>UnitedHealthcare Affiliates</b> ~ This section does not apply to The Empire Plan ~	
<b>State News</b>	
Appointment Standards for the State of Maryland	Yes
Reminder on Reimbursement for Maternity Services in New Jersey	No
Appointment Standards for the State of Connecticut	Yes

## Preimplantation Genetic Testing (PGT)

You may be aware that pre-implantation genetic testing (PGT) is a covered benefit for The Empire Plan under certain circumstances.

We have recently been made aware that some Empire Plan network providers are sending PGT biopsies to laboratories that perform a test which is not considered safe and effective according to UnitedHealthcare medical policy. In those cases, the testing is not covered, resulting in an unexpected expense for the patients.

To help prevent future benefit denials for this reason, we ask that all future biopsies performed for the purpose of PGT be forwarded to the network laboratory identified below. This is the only participating laboratory that performs the single gene test which is considered effective according to UnitedHealthcare medical policy.

NATERA  
201 INDUSTRIAL RD STE 410  
SAN CARLOS, CA 94070  
(650) 249-9090

PGT performed by any other laboratory is likely to not be covered. For more information on PGT, visit:

*UHCprovider.com → MENU → Policies and Protocols → Commercial Policies → Medical & Drug Policies and Coverage Determination Guidelines for Commercial Plans → Infertility Diagnosis & Treatment – Commercial Medical Policy*



### Don't Forget ...

**Empire Plan claims for 2018 services must be submitted to the Kingston Service Center by April 30, 2019.** Electronic claim submission using payer ID 87726 is encouraged. For those unable to submit electronically, paper claims may be submitted to:

The Empire Plan, PO Box 1600, Kingston, NY 12402-1600

Empire Plan Network Management  
UnitedHealthcare  
PO Box 2300  
Kingston, NY 12402-2300

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED



## The Empire Plan

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- **UHC Network Bulletin – January 2018** *pages #2-4*

Send your Empire Plan claims and written inquiries regarding claims issues to:

**Empire Plan Claims**  
**PO Box 1600**  
**Kingston, NY 12402-1600**

Send written inquiries regarding Empire Plan Network participation issues and changes to your contractual identifiers, such as tax identification number(s) or practitioners joining/leaving your practice, to:

**Empire Plan Network Management**  
**505 Boices Ln**  
**Kingston, NY 12401**

Send changes to your practice demographic information, such as address(es), telephone number(s), etc., to:

- **UHCprovider.com;**
- **Fax# (844) 897-5439; or**
- **The Empire Plan Network Management address above** (only if you do not have internet or fax access).

If you are unsure regarding any aspect of The Empire Plan, please call **1-877-7NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447)**.