NEW YORK Consumer Guide to Health Insurers



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New York Consumer Guide to Health Insurers

About This Guide

The purpose of this Guide¹ is to:

- Inform you of the health insurance products offered in New York State and how they work.
- Help you choose a health insurance company based on quality of care and service.

Data Sources

The information in this Guide is provided by two New York agencies:

- 1. New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS) is responsible for protecting the public interest by supervising and regulating financial products and services, including those subject to the provisions of the Insurance Law and the Banking Law in New York State.
 - DFS compiles the complaint and appeal information that appears on pages 4–23, the grievance information that appears on pages 24–28 and the independent dispute resolution information that appears on pages 64-66.
 - DFS data are from calendar year 2018.
- 2. New York State Department of Health (DOH) works to protect and promote the health of New Yorkers through prevention, research and by ensuring delivery of quality health care. DOH compiles its portion of the complaint data on page 4 and the information on health insurance company performance that appears on pages 29-56.

- DOH collects data through the New York State Department of Health's Quality Assurance Reporting Requirements (QARR) and the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®2).
- DOH data on quality of care and service for health insurance companies are from calendar year 2017.

Details About the Data

- The Guide does not include:
 - HMOs with less than \$25 million in premiums or fewer than 5,000 members.
 - Commercial and EPO/PPO plans with less than \$50 million in premiums.
 - Data for Medicare, Medicaid or self-insured plans.³
- Health insurance companies that were in operation during the entire 2017 calendar year were required to report DOH data.
- Health insurance companies are listed alphabetically in the data tables, except for the Overall Complaint Ranking table on pages 60-63.
- Some health insurance companies are listed using different names for the same company, depending on whether the data are reported by DFS or by DOH.

¹ This Guide is published pursuant to §210 of the New York Insurance Law.

² CAHPS[®] is a registered trademark of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

³ For information about Medicare coverage, call the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal agency that oversees this program, at 800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227), or visit the website at www.medicare.gov. You can also contact the New York State Office for the Aging Health Insurance Information Counseling & Assistance Program (HIICAP) by calling 800-701-0501, or by visiting the website at www.aging.ny.gov/healthbenefits/. For information on New York's Medicaid program, contact your local county Department of Social Services.

New York Consumer Guide to Health Insurers

Health Insurance Company¹ and Plan Definitions

Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) Plan: A type of coverage that provides comprehensive health services to members in return for a monthly premium and copayment when services are received. In an HMO plan, members choose an in-network primary care physician (PCP) who coordinates each assigned member's care. Members need a referral from their PCP to obtain services from in-network specialists and additional provider services. Although many HMOs require their members to go to doctors and other providers in the HMO provider network, some HMO plans offer the option to go out-ofnetwork (for example in an HMO Point of Service [POS] plan). Unless a member has an HMO plan that offers an out-of-network option, outof-network services are usually not covered.

Exclusive Provider Organization (EPO) Plan: A type of coverage in which the insurer contracts with doctors, hospitals and other types of providers to form a network of providers. Certain services may require pre-authorization. In an EPO, members must use the providers who belong to the EPO network or their expenses will not be covered.

Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) Plan: A type of managed care coverage based on a network of doctors and hospitals that provide care to an enrolled population at a prearranged discounted rate. PPO members do not usually need a referral to see a specialist, but certain services may require pre-authorization from the health insurance company. PPO members may use out-of-network providers; however, members usually pay more when they receive care outside the PPO network.

Commercial Insurers: Health insurance can also be written by life insurers, property/casualty insurers and other types of insurers. Commercial insurers employ managed care strategies, but offer a more traditional approach to coverage than HMOs. Policyholders are subject to deductibles and significant out-of-pocket costs unless they use a participating provider.

¹ References to the terms "companies" and "plans" are used interchangeably and include HMOs, EPO/PPOs and commercial health insurance companies, unless it is clear from the context, such as in the various charts, that only the term specifically mentioned is being discussed.

Complaints

Each year, the New York State DFS and DOH receive complaints from consumers and health care providers about health insurance companies. Complaints handled by DFS typically involve issues related to prompt payment, reimbursement, coverage, network adequacy, benefits, rates and premiums. Complaints handled by DOH involve concerns about the quality of care received by Managed Care HMO members. After reviewing each complaint, the State determines whether the health insurance company acted appropriately. If the State determines that the health insurance company did not act in accordance with its statutory and contractual obligations, the company must resolve the problem to come into compliance.

For issues concerning payment, reimbursement, coverage, benefits, rates and premiums, contact DFS at: https://www.dfs.ny.gov/complaint or call 800-342-3736.

Understanding the Charts

- Rank: Each health insurance company's ranking is based on how many complaints were resolved by DFS in favor of the member or provider, relative to the company's premiums. A lower number results in a higher ranking. A higher ranking means that the health insurance company had fewer complaints relative to its size.
- Total Complaints to DFS: Total number of complaints closed by DFS in 2018. Large health insurance companies may receive more complaints because they have more members than smaller health insurance companies.
- Upheld Complaints by DFS: Number of closed complaints resolved in favor of the member or provider because DFS determined that the health insurance company did not comply with statutory or contractual obligations. Complaints upheld by DFS are used to calculate the complaint ratio and ranking.

- Premiums: Dollar amount generated by a health insurance company in New York State during 2018. Premiums are used to calculate the complaint ratio so that health insurance companies of different sizes can be compared fairly. Premium data exclude Medicare and Medicaid.
- Complaint Ratio: Number of complaints upheld (complaints resolved in favor of the member or provider) by DFS, divided by the health insurance company's premiums.
- Total Complaints to DOH: Total number of complaints closed by DOH. Complaints to DOH involve concerns about the quality of care received by members with Managed Care HMO plans.
- Upheld Complaints by DOH: Number of complaints closed by DOH that were decided in favor of the member or provider.

Complaints—HMOs 2018

Data Source: DFS and DOH

	[Data Compiled	Data Compiled by the New York State DOH				
НМО	Rank ¹ 1 = Best 8 = Worst	Total Complaints to DFS	Upheld Complaints by DFS	Premiums (Millions \$)	Complaint Ratio	Total Complaints to DOH	Upheld Complaints by DOH
Capital District Physicians Health Plan	2	9	1	541.47	0.0018	1	0
Community Blue (HealthNow)	1	0	0	183.02	0.0000	0	0
Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc.	8	338	193	124.76	1.5470	2	0
Excellus Health Plan	4	14	6	397.21	0.0151	2	0
HIP Health Maintenance Organization	7	688	400	2,501.09	0.1599	1	0
Independent Health Association, Inc.	3	18	2	228.96	0.0087	0	0
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	5	38	17	584.97	0.0291	1	0
UnitedHealthcare of New York, Inc.	6	79	35	792.96	0.0441	0	0
	Total	1,184	654	5,354.44	0.1221	7	0

¹HMOs with a lower complaint ratio receive a higher ranking.

Complaints—EPO/PPO Health Plans 2018

EPO/PPO Health Plan	Rank ¹ 1 = Best 13 = Worst	Total Complaints to DFS	Upheld Complaints by DFS	Premiums (Millions \$)	Complaint Ratio
Aetna Life Insurance Company ²	12	1,300	455	1,975.90	0.2303
CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc.	3	9	4	508.50	0.0079
CIGNA Health and Life Insurance Company ²	9	180	102	1,157.74	0.0881
Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc. ²	10	423	227	2,549.34	0.0890
Excellus Health Plan, Inc. ²	5	88	27	2,866.75	0.0094
Group Health Incorporated ²	13	1,515	1,111	806.75	1.3771
HealthNow New York Inc. ²	4	42	14	1,502.44	0.0093
Independent Health Benefits Corporation	1	11	1	565.62	0.0018
MVP Health Services Corporation ²	2	10	3	734.03	0.0041
Nippon Life Insurance Company of America ²	6	11	3	62.67	0.0479
Oscar Insurance Corporation	11	132	39	298.80	0.1305
Oxford Health Insurance, Inc. ²	7	1,054	319	6,590.88	0.0484
UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company of New York ²	8	289	106	1,966.61	0.0539
	Total	5,064	2,411	21,586.03	0.1117

¹EPO/PPO health plans with a lower complaint ratio receive a higher ranking.

²Complaints, complaint ratios and premiums include data from the health insurance company's EPO, PPO and commercial business.

Complaints—Commercial Health Insurance Companies 2018

Commercial Health Insurance Company	Rank ^{1,2} 1 = Best 33 = Worst	Total Complaints to DFS	Upheld Complaints by DFS	Premiums (Millions \$)	Complaint Ratio
American Family Life Assurance Company of New York	14	10	2	317.98	0.0063
Berkshire Life Insurance Company of America	29	4	2	77.33	0.0259
CIGNA Life Insurance Company of New York	31	13	4	144.69	0.0276
Combined Life Insurance Company of New York	32	22	4	129.71	0.0308
Delta Dental of New York, Inc. ³	26	20	3	180.47	0.0166
Dentcare Delivery Systems, Inc. ³	25	5	1	60.83	0.0164
Eastern Vision Service Plan, Inc.4	6	0	0	97.37	0.0000
First Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company	10	2	0	60.85	0.0000
First Unum Life Insurance Company	23	16	5	315.09	0.0159
Genworth Life Insurance Company of New York	1	9	0	203.15	0.0000
Guardian Life Insurance Company of America	15	22	3	424.89	0.0071
Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company	3	3	0	158.28	0.0000
HCC Life Insurance Company	9	0	0	74.88	0.0000
HM Life Insurance Company of New York	12	0	0	59.14	0.0000
John Hancock Life & Health Insurance Company	27	13	2	102.18	0.0196
Liberty Life Assurance Company of Boston	4	0	0	99.10	0.0000

¹ f the ratios are the same among commercial health insurance companies, the commercial health insurance company with the higher annual premium amount receives a higher ranking.

²Commercial health insurance companies with a lower complaint ratio receive a higher ranking.

³Plan issues dental coverage only.

⁴Plan issues vision coverage only.

Complaints—Commercial Health Insurance Companies 2018, continued

Commercial Health Insurance Company	Rank ^{1,2} 1 = Best 33 = Worst	Total Complaints to DFS	Upheld Complaints by DFS	Premiums (Millions \$)	Complaint Ratio
Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company	7	4	0	85.19	0.0000
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company	20	34	9	640.22	0.0141
Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company	30	5	2	74.05	0.0270
New York Life Insurance Company	8	5	0	77.59	0.0000
Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company	18	1	1	97.53	0.0103
Paul Revere Life Insurance Company	11	3	0	59.62	0.0000
Principal Life Insurance Company	19	2	1	75.29	0.0133
Provident Life and Casualty Insurance Company	33	2	2	51.58	0.0388
Prudential Insurance Company of America	21	13	2	135.46	0.0148
ShelterPoint Life Insurance Company	2	0	0	181.87	0.0000
Standard Life Insurance Company of New York	22	3	1	67.70	0.0148
Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York	24	1	1	62.36	0.0160
Sun Life and Health Insurance Company	16	7	1	120.09	0.0083
Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	17	6	1	99.36	0.0101
Wellfleet New York Insurance Company	5	2	0	97.39	0.0000
WESCO Insurance Company	28	2	1	50.67	0.0197
Westport Insurance Corporation	13	0	0	50.59	0.0000
	Total	229	48	4,532.50	0.0106

¹ fratios are the same among commercial health insurance companies, the commercial health insurance company with the higher annual premium amount receives a higher ranking.

²Commercial health insurance companies with a lower complaint ratio receive a higher ranking.

Prompt Pay Complaints

New York State requires all health insurance companies to:

- Pay undisputed electronic claims within 30 days and pay undisputed paper claims within 45 days of receipt, or
- Request all additional information from the member or the provider, if necessary, within 30 days of receipt of the claim, or
- Deny the claim within 30 days of receipt.

For issues concerning payment, reimbursement, coverage, benefits, rates and premiums, contact DFS at: https://www.dfs.ny.gov/complaint or call 800-342-3736.

Understanding the Charts

- Rank: Each health insurance company's ranking is based on the number of prompt pay complaints upheld, relative to the company's premiums. A lower number results in a higher ranking. A higher ranking means that the health insurance company had fewer complaints relative to its size.
- Total Complaints: Total number of complaints closed by DFS in 2018. Complaints typically involve issues about prompt payment, reimbursement, coverage, benefits, rates and premiums.
- Total Prompt Pay Complaints: Total number of prompt pay complaints closed by DFS in 2018. Large health insurance companies may receive more complaints because they have more members and pay more claims than smaller health insurance companies.

- Upheld Prompt Pay Complaints: Number of closed prompt pay complaints where DFS determined that the health insurance company was not processing claims in a timely manner. Prompt pay complaints upheld by DFS are used to calculate the prompt pay complaint ratio and ranking.
- Premiums: Dollar amount generated by a health insurance company in New York State during 2018. Premiums are used to calculate the prompt pay complaint ratio so that health insurance companies of different sizes can be compared fairly. Premium data exclude Medicare and Medicaid.
- Prompt Pay Complaint Ratio: Number of prompt pay complaints upheld divided by the health insurance company's premiums.

Prompt Pay Complaints—HMOs 2018

НМО	Rank ^{1,2} 1 = Best 8 = Worst	Total Complaints	Total Prompt Pay Complaints	Upheld Prompt Pay Complaints	Premiums (Millions \$)	Prompt Pay Complaint Ratio
Capital District Physicians Health Plan	3	9	3	1	541.47	0.0018
Community Blue (HealthNow)	2	0	0	0	183.02	0.0000
Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc.	8	338	151	93	124.76	0.7454
Excellus Health Plan	4	14	8	6	397.21	0.0151
HIP Health Maintenance Organization	7	688	352	228	2,501.09	0.0912
Independent Health Association, Inc.	1	18	6	0	228.96	0.0000
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	5	38	12	9	584.97	0.0154
UnitedHealthcare of New York, Inc.	6	79	26	13	792.96	0.0164
	Total	1,184	558	350	5,354.44	0.0654

¹If the ratios are the same among HMOs, the HMO with the higher annual premium amount receives a higher ranking.

²HMOs with a lower prompt pay complaint ratio receive a higher ranking.

Prompt Pay Complaints—EPO/PPO Health Plans 2018

EPO/PPO Health Plan	Rank ^{1,2} 1 = Best 13 = Worst	Total Complaints		Upheld Prompt Pay Complaints		Prompt Pay Complaint Ratio
Aetna Life Insurance Company ³	12	1,300	394	186	1,975.90	0.0941
CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc.	5	9	3	2	508.50	0.0039
CIGNA Health and Life Insurance Company ³	9	180	68	48	1,157.74	0.0415
Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc.3	10	423	190	117	2,549.34	0.0459
Excellus Health Plan, Inc.3	3	88	16	7	2,866.75	0.0024
Group Health Incorporated ³	13	1,515	725	588	806.75	0.7289
HealthNow New York Inc.3	4	42	8	3	1502.44	0.0020
Independent Health Benefits Corporation	1	11	1	0	565.62	0.0000
MVP Health Services Corporation ³	2	10	2	1	734.03	0.0014
Nippon Life Insurance Company of America ³	8	11	5	2	62.67	0.0319
Oscar Insurance Corporation	11	132	45	18	298.80	0.0602
Oxford Health Insurance, Inc.3	6	1,054	365	175	6,590.88	0.0266
UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company of New York ³	7	289	130	60	1,966.61	0.0305
	Total	5,064	1,952	1,207	21,586.03	0.0559

¹ If the ratios are the same among EPO/PPO health plans, the EPO/PPO health plan with the higher annual premium amount receives a higher ranking.

²EPO/PPO health plans with a lower prompt pay complaint ratio receive a higher ranking.

³Prompt pay complaints, complaint ratios and premiums include data from the health insurance company's EPO, PPO and commercial business.

Prompt Pay Complaints—Commercial Health Insurance Companies 2018

Commercial Health Insurance Company	Rank ^{1,2} 1 = Best 33 = Worst	Total Complaints	Total Prompt Pay Complaints	Upheld Prompt Pay Complaints	Premiums (Millions \$)	Prompt Pay Complaint Ratio
American Family Life Assurance Company of New York	2	10	2	0	317.98	0.0000
Berkshire Life Insurance Company of America	17	4	0	0	77.33	0.0000
CIGNA Life Insurance Company of New York	7	13	0	0	144.69	0.0000
Combined Life Insurance Company of New York	30	22	6	1	129.71	0.0077
Delta Dental of New York, Inc. ³	29	20	16	1	180.47	0.0055
Dentcare Delivery Systems, Inc.3	22	5	2	0	60.83	0.0000
Eastern Vision Service Plan, Inc.4	14	0	0	0	97.37	0.0000
First Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company	21	2	0	0	60.85	0.0000
First Unum Life Insurance Company	3	16	0	0	315.09	0.0000
Genworth Life Insurance Company of New York	4	9	0	0	203.15	0.0000
Guardian Life Insurance Company of America	1	22	7	0	424.89	0.0000
Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company	6	3	0	0	158.28	0.0000
HCC Life Insurance Company	18	0	0	0	74.88	0.0000
HM Life Insurance Company of New York	24	0	0	0	59.14	0.0000
John Hancock Life & Health Insurance Company	9	13	0	0	102.18	0.0000
Liberty Life Assurance Company of Boston	11	0	0	0	99.10	0.0000

¹ fthe ratios are the same among commercial health insurance companies, the commercial health insurance company with the higher annual premium amount receives a higher ranking.

²Commericial health insurance companies with a lower prompt pay complaint ratio receive a higher ranking.

³Plan issues dental coverage only.

⁴Plan issues vision coverage only.

Prompt Pay Complaints—Commercial Health Insurance Companies 2018, continued

Commercial Health Insurance Company	Rank ^{1,2} 1 = Best 33 = Worst	Total Complaints	Total Prompt Pay Complaints	Upheld Prompt Pay Complaints	Premiums (Millions \$)	Prompt Pay Complaint Ratio
Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company	15	4	0	0	85.19	0.0000
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company	28	34	3	2	640.22	0.0031
Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company	19	5	0	0	74.05	0.0000
New York Life Insurance Company	16	5	1	0	77.59	0.0000
Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company	12	1	0	0	97.53	0.0000
Paul Revere Life Insurance Company	23	3	0	0	59.62	0.0000
Principal Life Insurance Company	32	2	1	1	75.29	0.0133
Provident Life and Casualty Insurance	25	2	0	0	51.58	0.0000
Prudential Insurance Company of America	8	13	0	0	135.46	0.0000
ShelterPoint Life Insurance Company	5	0	0	0	181.87	0.0000
Standard Life Insurance Company of New York	33	3	3	1	67.70	0.0148
Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York	20	1	0	0	62.36	0.0000
Sun Life and Health Insurance Company	31	7	2	1	120.09	0.0083
Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	10	6	2	0	99.36	0.0000
Wellfleet New York Insurance Company	13	2	1	0	97.39	0.0000
WESCO Insurance Company	26	2	0	0	50.67	0.0000
Westport Insurance Corporation	27	0	0	0	50.59	0.0000
	Total	229	46	7	4,532.50	0.0015

¹ fthe ratios are the same among commercial health insurance companies, the commercial health insurance company with the higher annual premium amount receives a higher ranking.

²Commericial health insurance companies with a lower prompt pay complaint ratio receive a higher ranking.

Internal Appeals

An internal appeal or utilization review (UR) occurs when a member or provider asks a health insurance company to reconsider its refusal to pay for a medical service that the health insurance company considers experimental, investigational, not medically necessary, a clinical trial or a treatment for a rare disease. A member may also appeal when the health plan denies a request to pay for an out-of-network service¹ if the health plan offers an alternate service in-network or if the health plan denies an out-of-network referral.² In addition, the member or the provider may appeal if the health plan denies a step therapy protocol³ override for a prescription drug.

Health insurance companies are required to have appeals reviewed by medical professionals. Common internal appeals involve the medical necessity of hospital admissions, length of hospital stays and use of certain medical procedures.

Understanding the Charts

- Filed Appeals: Number of internal appeals submitted to the health insurance company by members or providers in 2018.
- Closed Appeals: Number of internal appeals that the health insurance company decided by the end of 2018.
- Reversals on Appeals: Number of closed internal appeals where the health insurance company decided in favor of members or providers. If a health insurance company's decision to deny payment or coverage is reversed on an internal appeal, the health insurance company agrees to pay for the service or procedure.
- Reversal Rate: Percentage of reversals on appeals divided by closed appeals.

Keep in Mind

A health insurance consumer should pay specific attention to a health insurance company that has a very high or very low reversal rate. Please note:

- There is no "ideal" reversal rate.
- A low reversal rate may indicate that the health insurance company's initial decisions are correct, so fewer decisions require reversal, but an unusually low reversal rate may indicate that the health insurance company does not give appropriate reconsideration to initial decisions.
- A high reversal rate may indicate that a health insurance company's internal appeal process is responsive to members and providers, but an unusually high reversal rate may indicate that the health insurance company's process for making initial decisions is flawed.
- The number of internal appeals filed may be higher for health insurance companies that actively promote the appeal process and encourage members and providers to appeal denied services.

¹ An out-of-network service denial is a preauthorization request that is denied because the service is not available in-network and the health plan recommends an alternate in-network service that it believes is not materially different from the requested out-of-network service.

² An out-of-network referral denial occurs when the member's out-of-network referral request is denied because the health plan has an in-network provider with appropriate training and experience to meet the particular needs of the member.

³ Step-therapy protocols require members to try at least one other medication selected by their health plan before the health plan will grant coverage for the drug originally prescribed by the health care provider. The member or provider may request a step-therapy protocol override.

Internal Appeals—HMOs 2018

НМО	Filed Appeals	Closed Appeals¹	Reversals on Appeals	Reversal Rate (Percentage)
Capital District Physicians Health Plan	224	223	78	34.98%
Community Blue (HealthNow)	145	141	34	24.11%
Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc.	442	649	255	39.29%
Excellus Health Plan	58	60	23	38.33%
HIP Health Maintenance Organization	2,454	2,436	1,178	48.36%
Independent Health Association, Inc.	187	185	84	45.41%
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	217	221	125	56.56%
UnitedHealthcare of New York, Inc.	280	283	183	64.66%
Total	4,007	4,198	1,960	46.69%

¹Closed internal appeals can exceed filed internal appeals in 2018 because closed internal appeals also include internal appeals filed prior to 2018.

Internal Appeals—EPO/PPO Health Plans 2018

EPO/PPO Health Plan	Filed Appeals	Closed Appeals¹	Reversals on Appeals	Reversal Rate (Percentage)
Aetna Life Insurance Company ²	1,441	1,441	576	39.97%
CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc.	127	130	44	33.85%
CIGNA Health and Life Insurance Company ²	3,476	3,439	1,346	39.14%
Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc. ²	7,889	8,334	3,131	37.57%
Excellus Health Plan, Inc. ²	5,487	5,429	1,691	31.15%
Group Health Incorporated ²	1,841	1,830	1,081	59.07%
HealthNow New York Inc. ²	1,342	1,314	261	19.86%
Independent Health Benefits Corporation	546	537	315	58.66%
MVP Health Services Corporation ²	325	325	162	49.85%
Nippon Life Insurance Company of America ²	153	142	50	35.21%
Oscar Insurance Corporation	447	436	167	38.30%
Oxford Health Insurance, Inc. ²	10,318	10,324	5,807	56.25%
UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company of New York ²	3,848	3,848	1,280	33.26%
Total	37,240	37,529	15,911	42.40%

¹Closed internal appeals can exceed filed internal appeals in 2018 because closed internal appeals also include internal appeals filed prior to 2018.

²Internal appeals and reversal rates include data from the health insurance company's EPO, PPO and commercial business.

Internal Appeals—Commercial Health Insurance Companies 2018

Commercial Health Insurance Company ¹	Filed Appeals	Closed Appeals ²	Reversals on Appeals	Reversal Rate (Percentage)
American Family Life Assurance Company of New York	0	0	0	0.00%
Berkshire Life Insurance Company of America	0	0	0	0.00%
CIGNA Life Insurance Company of New York	0	0	0	0.00%
Combined Life Insurance Company of New York	0	0	0	0.00%
Delta Dental of New York, Inc. ³	0	0	0	0.00%
Dentcare Delivery Systems, Inc. ³	0	0	0	0.00%
Eastern Vision Service Plan, Inc.4	0	0	0	0.00%
First Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company	7	7	4	57.14%
First Unum Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0.00%
Genworth Life Insurance Company of New York	0	0	0	0.00%
Guardian Life Insurance Company of America	3,855	3,732	2,216	59.38%
Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company	0	0	0	0.00%
HCC Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0.00%
HM Life Insurance Company of New York	0	0	0	0.00%
John Hancock Life & Health Insurance Company	0	0	0	0.00%
Liberty Life Assurance Company of Boston	0	0	0	0.00%

¹Many of the commercial companies do not write traditional comprehensive health insurance products, and therefore have no internal appeals.

²Closed internal appeals can exceed filed internal appeals in 2018 because closed internal appeals also include internal appeals filed prior to 2018.

³Plan issues dental coverage only.

⁴Plan issues vision coverage only.

Internal Appeals—Commercial Health Insurance Companies 2018, continued

Commercial Health Insurance Company ¹	Filed Appeals	Closed Appeals²	Reversals on Appeals	Reversal Rate (Percentage)
Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0.00%
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company	10,386	10,386	8,845	85.16%
Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company	0	0	0	0.00%
New York Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0.00%
Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0.00%
Paul Revere Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0.00%
Principal Life Insurance Company	2	2	1	50.00%
Provident Life and Casualty Insurance Company	0	0	0	0.00%
Prudential Insurance Company of America	0	0	0	0.00%
ShelterPoint Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0.00%
Standard Life Insurance Company of New York	22	22	9	40.91%
Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York	0	0	0	0.00%
Sun Life and Health Insurance Company	5	5	4	80.00%
Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0.00%
Wellfleet New York Insurance Company	0	0	0	0.00%
WESCO Insurance Company	0	0	0	0.00%
Westport Insurance Corporation	0	0	0	0.00%
Total	14,277	14,154	11,079	78.27%

¹Many of the commercial health insurance companies do not write traditional comprehensive health insurance products, and therefore have no internal appeals.

²Closed internal appeals can exceed filed internal appeals in 2018 because closed internal appeals also include internal appeals filed prior to 2018.

External Appeals

After an unsuccessful internal appeal, members and providers may request an external appeal when a health insurance company continues to refuse to pay for/provide reimbursement for health care services on the basis that services are experimental, investigational, not medically necessary, a clinical trial or a treatment for a rare disease. A member may also appeal when the health plan denies a request to pay for an out-ofnetwork service¹ if the health plan offers an alternate service in-network or if the health plan denies an out-of-network referral.² If the health plan denies coverage of a non-formulary drug, the member or provider may be eligible to request a formulary exception for that drug through the external appeal process, depending on the type of policy.³ A formulary is a list of prescription drugs that are covered by a member's health plan. In addition, the member may request an external appeal if the health plan denies an internal appeal for a step therapy protocol⁴ override for a prescription drug.

Before requesting an external appeal, you usually must complete the health insurance company's first-level internal appeal process, or you and your health insurance company may agree together to waive the internal appeal process. An internal appeal is generally not required for a formulary exception.

*Providers may file external appeals on their own behalf for continued or extended health care services, additional services for a patient undergoing a course of continued treatment or services already provided.

*A health insurance company may charge a fee up to \$25 for an external appeal but may not charge more than a total of \$75 in a single plan year. The fee will be refunded to you if the appeal is overturned.

Understanding the Charts

- Total External Appeals: Total number of cases assigned to an external appeal organization in 2018.
- Reversals on External Appeals: Number of cases where an external appeal organization decided in favor of the member or provider.
- Reversed in Part External Appeals: Number of cases where an external appeal organization decided partially in favor of the member or provider. For example, an HMO refuses payment of a five day hospital stay, claiming it was not medically necessary; however, the external appeal organization decides that three of the five days were medically necessary.
- Upheld External Appeals: Number of cases where an external appeal organization agreed with the health insurance company's decision not to cover a service or procedure.

• Reversal Rate: Percentage of reversals on external appeals (cases decided in favor of the member or provider) divided by total external appeals. Please note that the number of cases when an external appeal organization decided partially in favor of the member or provider is also included in the reversal rate. A high reversal rate may indicate that a health insurance company does not make appropriate coverage decisions.

¹ An out-of-network service denial is a pre-authorization request that is denied because the service is not available in-network and the health plan recommends an alternate in-network service that it believes is not materially different from the requested out-of-network service.

² An out-of-network referral denial occurs when the member's out-of-network referral request is denied because the health plan has an in-network provider with appropriate training and experience to meet the particular needs of the member.

³ Members with the following policy types may be eligible to file an external appeal for a formulary exception: Individual, Essential Plan, Small Group, Student Health Plans and Large Group policies.

⁴ Step-therapy protocols require members to try at least one other medication selected by their health plan before the health plan will grant coverage for the drug originally prescribed by the health care provider. The member or provider may request a step-therapy protocol override.

External Appeals—HMOs 2018

НМО	Total External Appeals	Reversals on External Appeals	Reversed in Part External Appeals	Upheld External Appeals	Reversal Rate (Percentage) ¹
Capital District Physicians Health Plan	28	19	2	7	75.00%
Community Blue (HealthNow)	3	0	0	3	0.00%
Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc.	39	10	2	27	30.77%
Excellus Health Plan	3	1	0	2	33.33%
HIP Health Maintenance Organization	137	31	4	102	25.55%
Independent Health Association, Inc.	10	5	0	5	50.00%
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	11	5	0	6	45.45%
UnitedHealthcare of New York, Inc.	11	4	2	5	54.55%
Total	242	75	10	157	35.12%

¹Rate includes "reversed-in-part" decisions.

External Appeals—EPO/PPO Health Plans 2018

EPO/PPO Health Plan	Total External Appeals	Reversals on External Appeals	Reversed in Part External Appeals	Upheld External Appeals	Reversal Rate (Percentage) ¹
Aetna Life Insurance Company ²	130	36	5	89	31.54%
CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc.	14	4	0	10	28.57%
CIGNA Health and Life Insurance Company ²	53	19	1	33	37.74%
Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc. ²	349	122	5	222	36.39%
Excellus Health Plan, Inc. 2	179	60	1	118	34.08%
Group Health Incorporated ²	40	18	8	14	65.00%
HealthNow New York Inc. ²	26	9	0	17	34.62%
Independent Health Benefits Corporation	0	0	0	0	0.00%
MVP Health Services Corporation	22	7	0	15	31.82%
Nippon Life Insurance Company of America ²	4	2	0	2	50.00%
Oscar Insurance Corporation	55	20	0	35	36.36%
Oxford Health Insurance, Inc. ²	237	95	7	135	43.04%
UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company of New York ²	35	21	0	14	60.00%
Total	1,144	413	27	704	38.46%

¹Rate includes "reversed-in-part" decisions.

²External appeals and reversal rates include data from the health insurance company's EPO, PPO and commercial business.

External Appeals—Commercial Health Insurance Companies 2018

Commercial Health Insurance Company ¹	Total External Appeals	Reversals on External Appeals	Reversed in Part External Appeals	Upheld External Appeals	Reversal Rate (Percentage) ²
American Family Life Assurance Company of New York	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Berkshire Life Insurance Company of America	0	0	0	0	0.00%
CIGNA Life Insurance Company of New York	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Combined Life Insurance Company of New York	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Delta Dental of New York, Inc. ³	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Dentcare Delivery Systems, Inc. ³	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Eastern Vision Service Plan, Inc.4	0	0	0	0	0.00%
First Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
First Unum Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Genworth Life Insurance Company of New York	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Guardian Life Insurance Company of America	9	5	1	3	66.67%
Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
HCC Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
HM Life Insurance Company of New York	0	0	0	0	0.00%
John Hancock Life & Health Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Liberty Life Assurance Company of Boston	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%

¹Many of the commercial health insurance companies do not write traditional comprehensive health insurance products, and therefore have no external appeals.

²Rate includes "reversed-in-part" decisions.

³Plan issues dental coverage only.

⁴Plan issues vision coverage only.

External Appeals—Commercial Health Insurance Companies 2018, continued

Commercial Health Insurance Company ¹	Total External Appeals	Reversals on External Appeals	Reversed in Part External Appeals	Upheld External Appeals	Reversal Rate (Percentage) ²
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company	7	5	0	2	71.43%
Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
New York Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Paul Revere Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Principal Life Insurance Company	1	1	0	0	100.00%
Provident Life and Casualty Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Prudential Insurance Company of America	0	0	0	0	0.00%
ShelterPoint Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Standard Life Insurance Company of New York	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Sun Life and Health Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Wellfleet New York Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
WESCO Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Westport Insurance Corporation	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Total	17	11	1	5	70.59%

¹Many of the commercial health insurance companies do not write traditional comprehensive health insurance products, and therefore have no external appeals.

²Rate includes "reversed-in-part" decisions.

Grievances

A grievance is a complaint by a member or provider to a health insurance company about a denial based on limitations or exclusions in the contract. Medical necessity issues are the subjects of internal appeals, not grievances. Common grievances include disagreements over benefit coverage. According to New York State law, health insurance companies offering a comprehensive policy that uses a network of providers must have a system in place for responding to members' concerns. The health insurance company must designate one or more qualified persons to review the grievance and decide whether to reverse or uphold a denial.

Understanding the Chart

- Filed Grievances: Number of grievances submitted to the health insurance company in 2018.
- Closed Grievances: Number of grievances the health insurance company resolved by the end of 2018.
- Upheld Grievances: Number of closed grievances where the health insurance company stood by its original decision and did not decide in favor of the member or provider.
- Reversed Grievances: Number of closed grievances where the health insurance company changed its initial decision and decided in favor of the member or provider.
- Reversal Rate: Percentage of reversals resulting from grievances (closed grievances decided in favor of the member or provider) divided by closed grievances.

Keep in Mind

A health insurance consumer should pay specific attention to a health insurance company that has a very high or very low reversal rate. Please note:

- There is no "ideal" reversal rate
- A low reversal rate may indicate that the health insurance company's initial decisions are correct, so fewer decisions require reversal, but an unusually low reversal rate may indicate that the health insurance company does not give appropriate reconsideration to initial decisions.
- A high reversal rate may indicate that a health insurance company's grievance process is responsive to members and providers, but an unusually high reversal rate may indicate that the health insurance company's process for making initial decisions is flawed
- The number of grievances filed may be higher for health insurance companies that actively promote the grievance process to members and providers.

Grievances—HMOs 2018

НМО	Filed Grievances	Closed Grievances ¹	Reversed Grievances	Upheld Grievances	Reversal Rate (Percentage)
Capital District Physicians Health Plan	216	222	102	120	45.95%
Community Blue (HealthNow)	66	64	27	37	42.19%
Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc.	406	502	192	310	38.25%
Excellus Health Plan	55	64	22	42	34.38%
HIP Health Maintenance Organization	1,112	1,041	431	610	41.40%
Independent Health Association, Inc.	144	144	55	89	38.19%
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	76	76	19	57	25.00%
UnitedHealthcare of New York, Inc.	37	51	17	34	33.33%
Total	2,112	2,164	865	1,299	39.97%

¹Closed grievances can exceed filed grievances in 2018 because closed grievances also include grievances filed prior to 2018.

Grievances—EPO/PPO Health Plans 2018

EPO/PPO Health Plan	Filed Grievances	Closed Grievances ¹	Reversed Grievances	Upheld Grievances	Reversal Rate (Percentage)
Aetna Life Insurance Company ²	136	133	45	88	33.83%
CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc.	244	238	141	97	59.24%
CIGNA Health and Life Insurance Company ²	172	185	31	154	16.76%
Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc.2	2,024	2,036	389	1,647	19.11%
Excellus Health Plan, Inc. ²	1,372	1,378	309	1,069	22.42%
Group Health Incorporated ²	770	746	146	600	19.57%
HealthNow New York Inc. ²	277	277	52	225	18.77%
Independent Health Benefits Corporation	471	460	171	289	37.17%
MVP Health Services Corporation	74	74	20	54	27.03%
Nippon Life Insurance Company of America ²	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Oscar Insurance Corporation	488	468	128	340	27.35%
Oxford Health Insurance, Inc. ²	10,044	10,073	2,349	7,724	23.32%
UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company of New York ²	7,048	7,051	1,660	5,391	23.54%
Total	23,120	23,119	5,441	17,678	23.53%

¹Closed grievances can exceed filed grievances in 2018 because closed grievances also include grievances filed prior to 2018.

²Grievances and reversal rates include data from the health insurance company's EPO, PPO and commercial business.

Grievances—Commercial Health Insurance Companies 2018

Commercial Health Insurance Company ¹	Filed Grievances	Closed Grievances ²	Reversed Grievances	Upheld Grievances	Reversal Rate (Percentage)
American Family Life Assurance Company of New	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Berkshire Life Insurance Company of America	0	0	0	0	0.00%
CIGNA Life Insurance Company of New York	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Combined Life Insurance Company of New York	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Delta Dental of New York, Inc. ³	1,962	1,962	834	1128	42.51%
Dentcare Delivery Systems, Inc. ³	268	273	70	203	25.64%
Eastern Vision Service Plan, Inc.4	0	0	0	0	0.00%
First Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
First Unum Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Genworth Life Insurance Company of New York	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Guardian Life Insurance Company of America	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
HCC Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
HM Life Insurance Company of New York	0	0	0	0	0.00%
John Hancock Life & Health Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Liberty Life Assurance Company of Boston	0	0	0	0	0.00%

¹Many of the commercial health insurance companies do not write traditional comprehensive health insurance products, and therefore have no grievances.

²Closed grievances can exceed filed grievances in 2018 because closed grievances also include grievances filed prior to 2018.

³Plan issues dental coverage only.

⁴Plan issues vision coverage only.

Grievances—Commercial Health Insurance Companies 2018, continued

Commercial Health Insurance Company ¹	Filed Grievances	Closed Grievances ²	Reversed Grievances	Upheld Grievances	Reversal Rate (Percentage)
Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
New York Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Paul Revere Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Principal Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Provident Life and Casualty Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Prudential Insurance Company of America	0	0	0	0	0.00%
ShelterPoint Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Standard Life Insurance Company of New York	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Sun Life and Health Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Wellfleet New York Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
WESCO Insurance Company	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Westport Insurance Corporation	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Total	2,230	2,235	904	1,331	40.45%

¹Many of the commercial health insurance companies do not write traditional comprehensive health insurance products, and therefore have no grievances.

²Closed grievances can exceed filed grievances in 2018 because closed grievances also include grievances filed prior to 2018.

Quality of Care and Service for Health Insurance Companies

Access and Service

Measure Descriptions

- Rating of Health Plan: The percentage of members who responded 8, 9 or 10 (on a scale of 0-10, where 0 is the worst health plan possible and 10 is the best health plan possible) when asked, "How would you rate your health plan?"
- Getting Care Quickly: The percentage of members who responded that they "usually" or "always" get:
 - Appointments for a check-up or routine care at a doctor's office or clinic as soon as needed.
 - Care right away for an illness or injury.
- Getting Needed Care: The percentage of members who responded that they "usually" or "always" get:
 - Appointments with specialists as soon as needed.
 - Care, tests or treatments they needed.

- Rating of Overall Health Care: The percentage of members who responded 8, 9 or 10 (on a scale of 0-10, where 0 is the worst health care possible and 10 is the best health care possible) when asked, "How would you rate all your health care?"
- Members Seen by a Provider: The percentage of adults ages 20 years and older who had an outpatient or preventive care visit within the past three years, as reported by the health insurance company. A higher score means more people who were enrolled in the health insurance company had a provider visit. The measure is reported separately for ages 20–44 years and for ages 45–64 years.

Access and Service—HMOs 2017

Data Source: DOH

Understanding the Chart

The symbols in the chart show how each HMO compares to the average for all New York HMOs. HMOs with a "▲" performed better than the New York HMO average.

Note: Symbols show statistically significant differences between each health insurance company's score and the New York average. "Statistically significant" means scores varied by more than could be accounted for by chance.

When comparing plan rates, note that some plans have the same rate but a different symbol. This is because plan rates are based on the number of members, which can differ among plans, and how much a plan's rate differs from the New York average.

Performance (Compa	ared to	o the l	New Y	ork H	IMO A	verag	je				
	Ratir	ng of	Get	ting	Get	ting	Rating of Overall		Members Se by a Provide			_
НМО		alth	Care Needed Quickly Care		Health Care		Ages 20–44		Ag 45–			
NY HMO Average	69		86		87		79		94		96	
Capital District Physicians Health Plan	84	•	92	A	93	A	87	A	95	A	98	A
Community Blue (HealthNow)¹	79	A	89		89		84	A	95	A	97	A
Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc.	47	•	82		83		71	▼	91	•	93	▼
Excellus (Univera Healthcare) ²	69		87		87		78		94		96	
Excellus BlueCross BlueShield ³	69		87		87		78		94		96	
HIP Health Maintenance Organization	59	•	71	▼	75	▼	73	▼	92	•	95	▼
Independent Health Association, Inc.	75	A	91	A	91	A	85	A	95	A	97	A
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	71		90	A	89		80		94		97	A

¹Includes data for HealthNow PPO membership.

Legend

- ▲ Significantly better than the NY HMO average.
- ▼ Significantly worse than the NY HMO average.

No symbol indicates that the average is not different from the NY HMO average.

³Includes data for Univera PPO membership.

³Includes data for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield PPO membership.

Access and Service—PPOs 2017

Data Source: DOH

Understanding the Chart

The symbols in the chart show how each PPO compares to the average for all New York PPOs. PPOs with a "▲" performed better than the New York PPO average.

Note: Symbols show statistically significant differences between each health insurance company's score and the New York average. "Statistically significant" means scores varied by more than could be accounted for by chance.

When comparing plan rates, note that some plans have the same rate but a different symbol. This is because plan rates are based on the number of members, which can differ among plans, and how much a plan's rate differs from the New York average.

Performance	Comp	ared	to the	New	York	PPO A	Avera	ge				
PPO ¹	Ratir Hea	ilth	Ca	ting ire ckly	Get Nee		Ove Hea	ng of erall alth are	by Ag		rs Se rovido Ag 45-	er es
NY PPO Average	62		83	July	87		75		93		95	•
Aetna Life Insurance Company	63		85		87		74		93		95	
CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc.	76	A	91	A	92	A	82	A	94	A	97	A
CIGNA Health and Life Insurance	59		80		87		76		94	A	95	
Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc.	75	A	82		85		79		92	▼	94	•
Group Health Incorporated	66		82		88		74		82	▼	82	•
MVP Health Services Corporation	57		81		87		73		93		96	A
Oscar Insurance Corporation	40	•	76	•	80	▼	60	•	88	▼	90	•
Oxford Health Insurance, Inc.	55	▼	85		88		77		95	A	96	A
UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company of New York	66		85		87		84	A	94	•	96	A

¹Data for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield PPO, HealthNow PPO and Univera PPO are included in the HMO tables.

Legend

- ▲ Significantly better than the NY PPO average.
- ▼ Significantly worse than the NY PPO average.

No symbol indicates that the average is not different from the NY PPO average.

Quality of Care and Service for Health Insurance Companies

Child and Adolescent Health

Measure Descriptions

Child and Adolescent Immunizations and Screening

- Childhood Immunization Combo 3: The percentage of children age 2 years who were fully immunized. Fully immunized consists of the following vaccines: four diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis (DTaP); three polio (IPV); one measles, mumps and rubella (MMR); three haemophilus influenza type B (HiB); three hepatitis B (HepB), one chicken pox (VZV); four pneumococcal conjugate (PCV); one hepatitis A (HepA); two or three rotavirus (RV); and two influenza (flu) vaccines by their second birthday.
- Adolescent Immunization Combo 2: The percentage of adolescents age 13 years who had one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine, one tetanus, diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine, and have completed the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine series by their 13th birthday.
- Weight Assessment BMI Percentile: The percentage of children and adolescents, ages 3-17 years, who had an outpatient visit with a PCP or OB/GYN and had their body mass index (BMI) calculated.

Assessment, Education and Counseling for Adolescents

- Adolescent Preventive Care: The percentage of adolescents ages 12-17 years who had at least one outpatient visit with a PCP or OB/GYN and received assessment, counseling or education on the following four components of care:
 - Alcohol and Other Drug Use: Risks of substance use (substance use includes alcohol, street drugs, nonprescription drugs, prescription drug misuse and inhalant use).
 - Depression.
 - Sexual Activity: Risk behaviors and preventive actions associated with sexual activity.
 - Tobacco Use.

Child and Adolescent Health—HMOs 2017

Data Source: DOH

Understanding the Chart

The symbols in the chart show how each HMO compares to the average for all New York HMOs. HMOs with a "▲" performed better than the New York HMO average.

Note: Symbols show statistically significant differences between each health insurance company's score and the New York average. "Statistically significant" means scores varied by more than could be accounted for by chance.

When comparing plan rates, note that some plans have the same rate but a different symbol. This is because plan rates are based on the number of members, which can differ among plans, and how much a plan's rate differs from the New York average.

Child and Adolescent Immunizations and Screening

Performance Compare	d to the l	New Yo	rk HMO A	verage			
НМО	Childhood Immunization Combo 3		Adoles Immuni Com	zation	Weight Assessment BMI Percentile		
NY HMO Average	86		27		84		
Capital District Physicians Health Plan	88		30		91	A	
Community Blue (HealthNow) ¹	91	A	30		90	A	
Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc.	66	•	14	▼	80		
Excellus (Univera Healthcare) ²	89		26		83		
Excellus BlueCross BlueShield ³	89		26		83		
HIP Health Maintenance Organization	72	•	27		71	▼	
Independent Health Association, Inc.	91	A	27		95	A	
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	85		27		89	A	

¹Includes data for HealthNow PPO membership.

Legend

- ▲ Significantly better than the NY HMO average.
- ▼ Significantly worse than the NY HMO average.

No symbol indicates that the average is not different from the NY HMO average.

²Includes data for Univera PPO membership.

³Includes data for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield PPO membership.

Child and Adolescent Health—HMOs 2017, continued

Data Source: DOH

Understanding the Chart

The symbols in the chart show how each HMO compares to the average for all New York HMOs. HMOs with a "▲" performed better than the New York HMO average.

Note: Symbols show statistically significant differences between each health insurance company's score and the New York average. "Statistically significant" means scores varied by more than could be accounted for by chance.

When comparing plan rates, note that some plans have the same rate but a different symbol. This is because plan rates are based on the number of members, which can differ among plans, and how much a plan's rate differs from the New York average.

Assessment, Education and Counseling for Adolescents

Performance Compared to the New York HMO Average										
	Adolescent Preventive Care									
НМО	Alcohol and Drug Use		Depression		Sexual Activity		Tobacco Use			
NY HMO Average	74		68		68		78			
Capital District Physicians Health Plan	82		78	A	74		84			
Community Blue (HealthNow) ¹	82	A	73		74		86	A		
Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc.	64	▼	52	•	52	▼	65	▼		
Excellus (Univera Healthcare) ²	76		62		71		80			
Excellus BlueCross BlueShield ³	76		62		71		80			
HIP Health Maintenance Organization	57	▼	54	▼	55	▼	63	•		
Independent Health Association, Inc.	90	A	86	A	86	A	88	A		
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	75		57	▼	68		79			

¹Includes data for HealthNow PPO membership.

Legend

- ▲ Significantly better than the NY HMO average.
- ▼ Significantly worse than the NY HMO average.

No symbol indicates that the average is not different from the NY HMO average.

²Includes data for Univera PPO membership.

³Includes data for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield PPO membership.

Child and Adolescent Health—PPOs 2017

Data Source: DOH

Understanding the Chart

The symbols in the chart show how each PPO compares to the average for all New York PPOs. PPOs with a "▲" performed better than the New York PPO average.

Note: Symbols show statistically significant differences between each health insurance company's score and the New York average. "Statistically significant" means scores varied by more than could be accounted for by chance.

When comparing plan rates, note that some plans have the same rate but a different symbol. This is because plan rates are based on the number of members, which can differ among plans, and how much a plan's rate differs from the New York average.

Child and Adolescent Immunizations and Screening

Performance Compared to the New York PPO Average											
PPO ¹	Childhood Immunization Combo 3		Adolescent Immunization Combo 2		Weight Assessment BMI Percentile						
NY PPO Average	73		16		73						
Aetna Life Insurance Company	68	•	17		71						
CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc.	89	A	29	A	91	A					
CIGNA Health and Life Insurance Company	76		14	•	85	A					
Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc.	70		17		75						
Group Health Incorporated	46	•	14		50	•					
MVP Health Services Corporation	80	A	21	A	83	A					
Oscar Insurance Corporation	67		17		72						
Oxford Health Insurance, Inc.	73		13	▼	69						
UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company of New York	79	A	16		68	•					

¹Data for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield PPO, HealthNow PPO and Univera PPO are included in the HMO tables.

Legend

- ▲ Significantly better than the NY PPO average.
- ▼ Significantly worse than the NY PPO average.
- No symbol indicates that the average is not different from the NY PPO average.

Child and Adolescent Health—PPOs 2017, continued

Data Source: DOH

Understanding the Chart

The symbols in the chart show how each PPO compares to the average for all New York PPOs. PPOs with a "▲" performed better than the New York PPO average.

Note: Symbols show statistically significant differences between each health insurance company's score and the New York average. "Statistically significant" means scores varied by more than could be accounted for by chance.

When comparing plan rates, note that some plans have the same rate but a different symbol. This is because plan rates are based on the number of members, which can differ among plans, and how much a plan's rate differs from the New York average.

Assessment, Education and Counseling for Adolescents

Performance Com	Performance Compared to the New York PPO Average											
			Adoles	scent P	reventi	ve Care	•					
PPO ¹	and	ohol Drug se	Depre	ession		cual ivity		acco se				
NY PPO Average	54		49		49		5 8					
Aetna Life Insurance Company	57		51		52		58					
CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc.	85		81	A	83	A	90	•				
CIGNA Health and Life Insurance	65	A	59	A	56		70	A				
Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc.	65	A	53		57	A	67	•				
Group Health Incorporated	40	▼	34	▼	37	▼	41	▼				
MVP Health Services Corporation	65	A	57	A	55		73	A				
Oscar Insurance Corporation	35	▼	17	▼	29	▼	27	▼				
Oxford Health Insurance, Inc.	41	▼	39	▼	37	▼	47	•				
UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company of New York	46	•	43		38	▼	50	•				

¹Data for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield PPO. HealthNow PPO and Univers PPO are included in the HMO tables.

Legend

- ▲ Significantly better than the NY PPO average.
- ▼ Significantly worse than the NY PPO average.

No symbol indicates that the average is not different from the NY PPO average.

Quality of Care and Service for Health Insurance Companies

Adult Health

Measure Descriptions

- Controlling High Blood Pressure: The percentage of adults ages 18 or older who had hypertension and whose blood pressure was adequately controlled based on the following criteria:
 - Adults ages 18-59 years whose blood pressure was <140/90 mm Hg.
 - Adults ages 60-85 years with a diagnosis of diabetes, whose blood pressure was <140/90 mm Hg.
 - Adults ages 60–85 years without a diagnosis of diabetes. whose blood pressure was <150/90 mm Hg.
- Colon Cancer Screening: The percentage of adults ages 50-75 years who had appropriate screening for colorectal cancer.
- Use of Spirometry Testing for COPD: The percentage of adults ages 40 years and older with a new diagnosis of COPD or newly active COPD, who received spirometry testing to confirm the diagnosis.

- Flu Shot for Adults: The percentage of adults ages 18–64 years who have had a flu shot.
- Avoidance of Antibiotics for Adults With Acute Bronchitis: The percentage of adults ages 18-64 years with acute bronchitis who did not receive a prescription for antibiotics. A higher score indicates more appropriate treatment of people with acute bronchitis.
- Adult BMI Assessment: The percentage of adults ages 18–74 years with an outpatient visit who had their body mass index (BMI) documented

Adult Health—HMOs 2017

Data Source: DOH

Understanding the Chart

The symbols in the chart show how each HMO compares to the average for all New York HMOs. HMOs with a "▲" performed better than the New York HMO average.

Note: Symbols show statistically significant differences between each health insurance company's score and the New York average. "Statistically significant" means scores varied by more than could be accounted for by chance.

When comparing plan rates, note that some plans have the same rate but a different symbol. This is because plan rates are based on the number of members, which can differ among plans, and how much a plan's rate differs from the New York average.

Performance Compared to the New York HMO Average												
НМО	Controlling High Blood Pressure Colon Cancer Screening			Spiro Testi	e of metry ng for PD							
NY HMO Average	67		69		45							
Capital District Physicians Health Plan	75	A	76	A	42							
Community Blue (HealthNow)¹	76	A	68		46							
Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc.	52	▼	61	▼	54							
Excellus (Univera Healthcare) ²	69		71		42	▼						
Excellus BlueCross BlueShield ³	69		71		42	▼						
HIP Health Maintenance Organization	47	▼	64		48	A						
Independent Health Association, Inc.	75	A	70		51	A						
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	72	A	73		38	▼						

¹Includes data for HealthNow PPO membership.

Legend

- ▲ Significantly better than the NY HMO average.
- ▼ Significantly worse than the NY HMO average.

No symbol indicates that the average is not different from the NY HMO average.

²Includes data for Univera PPO membership.

³Includes data for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield PPO membership.

Adult Health—HMOs 2017, continued

Data Source: DOH

Understanding the Chart

The symbols in the chart show how each HMO compares to the average for all New York HMOs. HMOs with a "▲" performed better than the New York HMO average.

Note: Symbols show statistically significant differences between each health insurance company's score and the New York average. "Statistically significant" means scores varied by more than could be accounted for by chance.

When comparing plan rates, note that some plans have the same rate but a different symbol. This is because plan rates are based on the number of members, which can differ among plans, and how much a plan's rate differs from the New York average.

Performance Compared to the New York HMO Average												
НМО		hot for ults	Antibio Adults Ac	ance of tics for s With ute chitis	Adult BMI Assessment							
NY HMO Average	53		30		86							
Capital District Physicians Health Plan	58		38	A	92	A						
Community Blue (HealthNow) ¹	51		26	▼	94	A						
Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc.	54		25		78	▼						
Excellus (Univera Healthcare) ²	54		31	A	84							
Excellus BlueCross BlueShield ³	54		31	A	84							
HIP Health Maintenance Organization	42	▼	33		77	▼						
Independent Health Association, Inc.	49		24	▼	94	A						
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	59		28		88							

¹Includes data for HealthNow PPO membership.

Legend

- ▲ Significantly better than the NY HMO average.
- ▼ Significantly worse than the NY HMO average.

No symbol indicates that the average is not different from the NY HMO average.

²Includes data for Univera PPO membership.

³Includes data for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield PPO membership.

Adult Health—PPOs 2017

Data Source: DOH

Understanding the Chart

The symbols in the chart show how each PPO compares to the average for all New York PPOs. PPOs with a "▲" performed better than the New York PPO average.

Note: Symbols show statistically significant differences between each health insurance company's score and the New York average. "Statistically significant" means scores varied by more than could be accounted for by chance.

When comparing plan rates, note that some plans have the same rate but a different symbol. This is because plan rates are based on the number of members, which can differ among plans, and how much a plan's rate differs from the New York average.

Performance Compared to the New York PPO Average												
PPO ¹	Controlling High Blood Pressure Colon Cancer Screening			Spiro Testi	e of metry ng for PD							
NY PPO Average	49		60		56							
Aetna Life Insurance Company	46		59		56							
CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc.	70	A	71	A	38	▼						
CIGNA Health and Life Insurance	43	▼	60		59							
Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc.	47		59		56							
Group Health Incorporated	NV		50	▼	49	▼						
MVP Health Services Corporation	63	A	56		46	▼						
Oscar Insurance Corporation	55	A	39	▼	TS							
Oxford Health Insurance, Inc.	48		62		64	A						
UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company of New York	51		64		58							

¹Data for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield PPO. HealthNow PPO and Univers PPO are included in the HMO tables.

Legend

- ▲ Significantly better than the NY PPO average.
- ▼ Significantly worse than the NY PPO average.

No symbol indicates that the average is not different from the NY PPO average.

NV Plan submitted invalid data.

TS Sample size too small to report.

Adult Health—PPOs 2017, continued

Data Source: DOH

Understanding the Chart

The symbols in the chart show how each PPO compares to the average for all New York PPOs. PPOs with a "▲" performed better than the New York PPO average.

Note: Symbols show statistically significant differences between each health insurance company's score and the New York average. "Statistically significant" means scores varied by more than could be accounted for by chance.

When comparing plan rates, note that some plans have the same rate but a different symbol. This is because plan rates are based on the number of members, which can differ among plans, and how much a plan's rate differs from the New York average.

Performance Compared to the New York PPO Average												
PPO ¹		hot for ults	ance of otics for s With ute chitis	Adult BMI Assessment								
NY PPO Average	48		28		69							
Aetna Life Insurance Company	48		30		55	▼						
CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc.	64	A	33	A	92	A						
CIGNA Health and Life Insurance	43		31		65							
Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc.	47		24	▼	75	A						
Group Health Incorporated	47		56	A	45	▼						
MVP Health Services Corporation	45		25	▼	85	A						
Oscar Insurance Corporation	34	▼	25		72							
Oxford Health Insurance, Inc.	45		27	▼	69							
UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company of New York	50		28		75	•						

¹Data for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield PPO, HealthNow PPO and University PPO are included in the HMO tables.

Legend

- ▲ Significantly better than the NY PPO average.
- ▼ Significantly worse than the NY PPO average.

No symbol indicates that the average is not different from the NY PPO average.

Quality of Care and Service for Health Insurance Companies

Women's Health

Measure Descriptions

- Breast Cancer Screening: The percentage of women ages 50-74 years who had a mammogram any time on or between October 1, 2015, and December 31, 2017.
- Cervical Cancer Screening: The percentage of women ages 21-64 years who had cervical cytology performed every three years and women ages 30-64 years who had cervical cytology/human papillomavirus (HPV) co-testing performed every five years.
- Timeliness of Prenatal Care: The percentage of women who gave birth and had a prenatal care visit in the first trimester or within 42 days of enrollment in their health plan.

- Postpartum Care: The percentage of women who gave birth in the last year and had a postpartum care visit between 21 and 56 days after they gave birth.
- Chlamydia Screening: The percentage of sexually active young women who had at least one test for chlamydia. The measure is reported separately for ages 16-20 years and for ages 21-24 years.

Women's Health—HMOs 2017

Data Source: DOH

Understanding the Chart

The symbols in the chart show how each HMO compares to the average for all New York HMOs. HMOs with a "▲" performed better than the New York HMO average.

Note: Symbols show statistically significant differences between each health insurance company's score and the New York average. "Statistically significant" means scores varied by more than could be accounted for by chance.

When comparing plan rates, note that some plans have the same rate but a different symbol. This is because plan rates are based on the number of members, which can differ among plans, and how much a plan's rate differs from the New York average.

Perfori	mance	Compa	ared to	the Ne	w York	нмо А	Average					
НМО	Breast Cervical Timeliness Cancer Cancer of Prenatal Postpartum Screening Screening Care Care				Scre		nydia ening Ag 21–	es				
NY HMO Average	77		80		94		83		55		62	
Capital District Physicians Health Plan	79	A	83		96		93	A	71	A	68	A
Community Blue (HealthNow) ¹	78	A	83		98	A	91	A	59	A	65	A
Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc.	67	▼	71	▼	92		75	▼	52		60	
Excellus (Univera Healthcare)2	78	A	79		95		83		45	▼	54	V
Excellus BlueCross BlueShield ³	78	A	79		95		83		45	•	54	•
HIP Health Maintenance Organization	74	•	80		83	▼	61	•	73	•	77	•
Independent Health Association, Inc.	77		80		98	A	94	A	59	A	63	
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	75	▼	78		92		87	A	53		62	

¹Includes data for HealthNow PPO membership.

Legend

- ▲ Significantly better than the NY HMO average.
- ▼ Significantly worse than the NY HMO average.

No symbol indicates that the average is not different from the NY HMO average.

²Includes data for Univera PPO membership.

³Includes data for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield PPO membership.

Women's Health—PPOs 2017

Data Source: DOH

Understanding the Chart

The symbols in the chart show how each PPO compares to the average for all New York PPOs. PPOs with a "▲" performed better than the New York PPO average.

Note: Symbols show statistically significant differences between each health insurance company's score and the New York average. "Statistically significant" means scores varied by more than could be accounted for by chance.

When comparing plan rates, note that some plans have the same rate but a different symbol. This is because plan rates are based on the number of members, which can differ among plans, and how much a plan's rate differs from the New York average.

Perfo	Performance Compared to the New York PPO Average													
PPO ¹	Car	Breast Cervical Timeliness Cancer Of Prenatal Postpartum Ages		Scree Ages		Chlamy Screer 1 Ages 16–20		_						
NY PPO Average	68		79		88		69		61		68			
Aetna Life Insurance Company	69	A	78		84		64	•	62	A	69			
CDPHP Universal Benefits,	78	A	87	A	96	A	89	A	65	A	66			
CIGNA Health and Life Insurance Company	71	A	79		88		70		61		70	•		
Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc.	68		75	•	88		74	A	60	•	68			
Group Health Incorporated	48	▼	56	▼	69	▼	50	▼	69	A	73	A		
MVP Health Services Corporation	72	A	75		88		83	A	56	•	63	•		
Oscar Insurance Corporation	58	▼	70	▼	89		74		60		67			
Oxford Health Insurance, Inc.	62	▼	82	A	86		66		57	▼	65	▼		
UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company of New York	73	A	81	A	92	A	67		63	A	72	•		

¹Data for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield PPO. HealthNow PPO and Univers PPO are included in the HMO tables.

Legend

- ▲ Significantly better than the NY PPO average.
- ▼ Significantly worse than the NY PPO average.

No symbol indicates that the average is not different from the NY PPO average.

Quality of Care and Service for Health Insurance Companies

Behavioral Health

Measure Descriptions

- Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication— Initiation Phase: The percentage of children ages 6–12 years who were newly prescribed ADHD medication and who had one follow-up visit with a practitioner within the 30 days after starting the medication.
- Antidepressant Medication Management—Effective **Continuation Phase Treatment:** The percentage of members ages 18 years and older who were diagnosed with depression and remained on antidepressant medication for at least six months.
- Follow-Up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness—Within 30 Days: The percentage of members ages 6 years and older who were hospitalized for treatment of selected mental health disorders (such as depression or bipolar disorder) and were seen on an ambulatory basis or who were in intermediate treatment with a mental health provider within 30 days of discharge.

- Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Alcohol and Other Drug Dependence—Within 30 Days: The percentage of members ages 13 years and older who were seen in an emergency department with a principal diagnosis of alcohol or other drug dependence (AOD) who had a follow-up visit for AOD within 30 days.
- Metabolic Monitoring for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics: The percentage of children and adolescents, ages 1–17 years, who had two or more antipsychotic prescriptions and had metabolic testing.

Behavioral Health—HMOs 2017

Data Source: DOH

Understanding the Chart

The symbols in the chart show how each HMO compares to the average for all New York HMOs. HMOs with a "▲" performed better than the New York HMO average.

Note: Symbols show statistically significant differences between each health insurance company's score and the New York average. "Statistically significant" means scores varied by more than could be accounted for by chance.

When comparing plan rates, note that some plans have the same rate but a different symbol. This is because plan rates are based on the number of members, which can differ among plans, and how much a plan's rate differs from the New York average.

P	erform	ance C	ompare	d to the l	New Yor	k HMO A	verage			
НМО	Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication			Hospita for M Illness-	up After Ilization Iental –Within Days	Emery Depar Visi Alcoh Other Depend	Up After gency tment t for ol and Drug lence—	Metabolic Monitoring for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics		
NY HMO Average	44		52		76		19		40	
Capital District Physicians Health Plan	49		53		83	•	19		49	
Community Blue (HealthNow) ¹	49		50		80	A	27	A	43	
Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc.	24	•	56		63	•	15		TS	
Excellus (Univera Healthcare) ²	42		54	A	74		18		35	•
Excellus BlueCross BlueShield ³	42		54	A	74		18		35	•
HIP Health Maintenance Organization	63	A	45	•	70	•	9	•	41	
Independent Health Association, Inc.	48		51		82		26	A	56	A
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	38		46	▼	75		18		37	

¹Includes data for HealthNow PPO membership.

Legend

- ▲ Significantly better than the NY HMO average.
- ▼ Significantly worse than the NY HMO average.

No symbol indicates that the average is not different from the NY HMO average.

TS Sample size too small to report.

²Includes data for Univera PPO membership.

³Includes data for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield PPO membership.

Behavioral Health—PPOs 2017

Data Source: DOH

Understanding the Chart

The symbols in the chart show how each PPO compares to the average for all New York PPOs. PPOs with a "▲" performed better than the New York PPO average.

Note: Symbols show statistically significant differences between each health insurance company's score and the New York average. "Statistically significant" means scores varied by more than could be accounted for by chance.

When comparing plan rates, note that some plans have the same rate but a different symbol. This is because plan rates are based on the number of members, which can differ among plans, and how much a plan's rate differs from the New York average.

	Perform	nance (ompare	d to the	New Yor	k PPO A	verage			
PPO ¹	Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication —Initiation Phase		Medic Manage Effe Contin	oressant cation ement— ctive cuation ase	Hospita for M Illness-	Up After alization lental –Within Days	Emer Depar Visi Alcoh other Depend	Up After gency tment t for ol and Drug dence—	Monito Childre Adolesc	bolic ring for en and cents on rchotics
NY PPO Average	41		55		73		13		43	
Aetna Life Insurance Company	39		60	•	74		13		44	
CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc.	40		53		80	•	13		44	
CIGNA Health and Life Insurance Company	42		53	•	75		9	•	43	
Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc.	40		54		71		15	•	39	
Group Health Incorporated	53		55		61	▼	20		67	
MVP Health Services Corporation	42		50	•	73		20	•	43	
Oscar Insurance Corporation	TS		61		38	•	16		TS	
Oxford Health Insurance, Inc.	42		55		70		9	•	44	
UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company of	42		56		75		12		43	

¹Data for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield PPO, HealthNow PPO and Univera PPO are included in the HMO tables.

Legend

- ▲ Significantly better than the NY PPO average.
- ▼ Significantly worse than the NY PPO average.

No symbol indicates that the average is not different from the NY PPO average.

TS Sample size too small to report.

Quality of Care and Service for Health Insurance Companies

Managing Medications

Measure Descriptions

- Persistence of Beta-Blocker Treatment: The percentage of adults ages 18 years and older who were hospitalized after a heart attack and received persistent beta-blocker treatment for six months after discharge.
- Medication Management for People With Asthma (75% Days Covered): The percentage of children ages 5–18 years and adults ages 19-64 years with persistent asthma who filled prescriptions for asthma controller medications during at least 75% of their treatment period. The measure is reported separately for ages 5–18 and ages 19–64.
- Statin Therapy for Patients With Cardiovascular Disease: The percentage of male adults ages 21-75 years and female adults ages 40-75 years who were identified as having clinical atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) and met the following criteria:
 - Received Statin Therapy: Adults who were dispensed at least one high or moderate-intensity statin medication.
 - Statin Adherence 80%: Adults who remained on a high or moderate-intensity statin medication for at least 80% of the treatment period.

Managing Medications—HMOs 2017

Data Source: DOH

Understanding the Chart

The symbols in the chart show how each HMO compares to the average for all New York HMOs. HMOs with a "▲" performed better than the New York HMO average.

Note: Symbols show statistically significant differences between each health insurance company's score and the New York average. "Statistically significant" means scores varied by more than could be accounted for by chance.

When comparing plan rates, note that some plans have the same rate but a different symbol. This is because plan rates are based on the number of members, which can differ among plans, and how much a plan's rate differs from the New York average.

Performance Compared to the New York HMO Average												
	of B	stence Seta- cker	for P	eople \	Manage With As s Cove	sthma		Patien Cardio	erapy ts With ascula ase			
НМО		ment	Ages	5–18	Ages	19–64	Rece	eived	Adherent			
NY HMO Average	88		39		54		81		77			
Capital District Physicians Health Plan	85		39		51		85	A	74	•		
Community Blue (HealthNow) ¹	93		30	•	48	•	83	A	75			
Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc.	TS		36		59		76	▼	78			
Excellus (Univera Healthcare) ²	86		43	A	58	A	81		80	A		
Excellus BlueCross BlueShield ³	86		43	A	58	A	81		80	A		
HIP Health Maintenance Organization	83		36		53		68	•	73			
Independent Health Association, Inc.	94		27	•	44	•	82		76			
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	94		46		59		81		76			

¹Includes data for HealthNow PPO membership.

Legend

- ▲ Significantly better than the NY HMO average.
- ▼ Significantly worse than the NY HMO average.

No symbol indicates that the average is not different from the NY HMO average.

TS Sample size too small to report.

²Includes data for Univera PPO membership.

³Includes data for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield PPO membership.

Managing Medications—PPOs 2017

Data Source: DOH

Understanding the Chart

The symbols in the chart show how each PPO compares to the average for all New York PPOs. PPOs with a "▲" performed better than the New York PPO average.

Note: Symbols show statistically significant differences between each health insurance company's score and the New York average. "Statistically significant" means scores varied by more than could be accounted for by chance.

When comparing plan rates, note that some plans have the same rate but a different symbol. This is because plan rates are based on the number of members, which can differ among plans, and how much a plan's rate differs from the New York average.

Performance Compared to the New York PPO Average												
	Persistence of Beta-		for P	eople V	Manage Vith As Cover	thma	Statin Therapy for Patients With Cardiovascular Disease					
PPO ¹		Blocker Treatment		Ages 5–18 Ages		19–64	Rece	eived	Adh	erent		
NY PPO Average	83		33		52		77		75			
Aetna Life Insurance Company	84		40	A	58	A	77		80	A		
CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc.	96	A	27		49		84	A	77			
CIGNA Health and Life Insurance Company	81		28		50		79		74			
Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc.	85		27	▼	51		80	A	75			
Group Health Incorporated	62	▼	41		53		50	▼	64	•		
MVP Health Services Corporation	91		35		50		83	A	74			
Oscar Insurance Corporation	TS		TS		49		77		76			
Oxford Health Insurance, Inc.	81		34		52		78		74			
UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company of New York	84		31		51		77		75			

¹Data for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield PPO. HealthNow PPO and Univers PPO are included in the HMO tables.

Legend

- ▲ Significantly better than the NY PPO average.
- ▼ Significantly worse than the NY PPO average.

No symbol indicates that the average is not different from the NY PPO average.

TS Sample size too small to report.

Quality of Care and Service for Health Insurance Companies

Diabetes Care

Measure Descriptions

- Monitoring Diabetes—Received All Three Tests (HbA1c **Testing, Dilated Eye Exam, Nephropathy Monitoring):** The percentage of adults ages 18–75 years with diabetes, who received all three of the following tests: HbA1c test, diabetes eye exam and medical attention for nephropathy.
- Managing Diabetes Outcomes—HbA1c Control (<8.0%): The percentage of adults ages 18–75 years with diabetes, whose most recent HbA1c level was less than 8.0%.
- Managing Diabetes Outcomes—Blood Pressure Controlled (<140/90 mmHg): The percentage of adults ages 18–75 years with diabetes, whose most recent blood pressure was less than 140/90 mm Hg.

Diabetes Care—HMOs 2017

Data Source: DOH

Understanding the Chart

The symbols in the chart show how each HMO compares to the average for all New York HMOs. HMOs with a "▲" performed better than the New York HMO average.

Note: Symbols show statistically significant differences between each health insurance company's score and the New York average. "Statistically significant" means scores varied by more than could be accounted for by chance.

When comparing plan rates, note that some plans ³Includes data for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield PPO membership. have the same rate but a different symbol. This is because plan rates are based on the number of members, which can differ among plans, and how much a plan's rate differs from the New York average.

Performance Cor	npared to	the New Yo	ork HMO A	verage		
	Diab	toring etes: ved All	Mana	iging Diab	etes Outc	omes
НМО	HbA1c Dilated E	Tests— Testing, ye Exam, opathy toring		Control 0%)	Cont	ressure rolled mmHg)
NY HMO Average	55		63		69	
Capital District Physicians Health Plan	60		69	A	74	A
Community Blue (HealthNow) ¹	60		64		73	
Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc.	47	▼	62		62	▼
Excellus (Univera Healthcare)2	51		63		76	A
Excellus BlueCross BlueShield ³	51		63		76	A
HIP Health Maintenance Organization	57		59	▼	52	▼
Independent Health Association, Inc.	61	A	71	A _	79	A
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	57		65		71	

¹Includes data for HealthNow PPO membership.

Legend

- ▲ Significantly better than the NY HMO average.
- ▼ Significantly worse than the NY HMO average.

No symbol indicates that the average is not different from the NY HMO average.

²Includes data for Univera PPO membership.

Diabetes Care—PPOs 2017

Data Source: DOH

Understanding the Chart

The symbols in the chart show how each PPO compares to the average for all New York PPOs. PPOs with a "▲" performed better than the New York PPO average.

Note: Symbols show statistically significant differences between each health insurance company's score and the New York average. "Statistically significant" means scores varied by more than could be accounted for by chance.

When comparing plan rates, note that some plans have the same rate but a different symbol. This is because plan rates are based on the number of members, which can differ among plans, and how much a plan's rate differs from the New York average.

Performance Compared to the New York PPO Average							
	Monitoring Diabetes: Received All Three Tests— HbA1c Testing, Dilated Eye Exam, Nephropathy Monitoring		Managing Diabetes Outcomes				
PPO ¹			HbA1c Control (<8.0%)		Blood Pressure Controlled (<140/90 mmHg)		
NY PPO Average	45		56		55		
Aetna Life Insurance Company	48		56		48	▼	
CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc.	62	A	66	A	75	A	
CIGNA Health and Life Insurance	45		49	▼	51		
Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc.	44		59		60	A	
Group Health Incorporated	37	▼	39	▼	28	▼	
MVP Health Services Corporation	46		60		70	A	
Oscar Insurance Corporation	34	▼	58		62	A	
Oxford Health Insurance, Inc.	44		59		55	_	
UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company of New York	45		54		60		

¹Data for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield PPO, HealthNow PPO and Univera PPO are included in the HMO tables.

Legend

- ▲ Significantly better than the NY PPO average.
- ▼ Significantly worse than the NY PPO average.

No symbol indicates that the average is not different from the NY PPO average.

Quality of Care and Service for Health Insurance Companies

Quality of Providers

Measure Descriptions

- Satisfaction with Personal Doctor: The percentage of members who responded 8, 9 or 10 (on a scale of 0-10, where 0 is the lowest level of satisfaction and 10 is the highest) when asked, "How would you rate your personal doctor?"
- Satisfaction with Specialist: The percentage of members who responded 8, 9 or 10 (on a scale of 0–10, where 0 is the lowest level of satisfaction and 10 is the highest) when asked "How would you rate your specialist?"
- Satisfaction with Provider Communication: The percentage of members who responded that their doctors or health care providers "usually" or "always":
 - Listen carefully to them.
 - Explain things in a way they understand.
 - Show respect for what they have to say.
 - Spend enough time with them during visits.

 Doctors Who Are Certified by a Medical Board: The percentage of internists, OB/GYNs and pediatricians who are board certified. A higher percentage means the health insurance company has more board-certified doctors in the practice areas listed.

To be board certified, doctors must receive additional training and pass an exam in their specialty. While board certification is not a guarantee of quality, it shows that a doctor has knowledge that the specialty board considers necessary.

Quality of Providers—HMOs 2017

Data Source: DOH

Understanding the Chart

The symbols in the chart show how each HMO compares to the average for all New York HMOs. HMOs with a "▲" performed better than the New York HMO average.

Note: Symbols show statistically significant differences between each health insurance company's score and the New York average. "Statistically significant" means scores varied by more than could be accounted for by chance.

When comparing plan rates, note that some plans have the same rate but a different symbol. This is because plan rates are based on the number of members, which can differ among plans, and how much a plan's rate differs from the New York average.

Performance Compared to the New York HMO Average												
		action ith	Satisfaction		Satisfaction		Doctors Who Are Certified by a Medical Board					
НМО		onal ctor	W	ith cialist	With P	rovider nication	Internal Medicine				Pedia	atrics
NY HMO Average	85		84		95		77		79		79	
Capital District Physicians Health Plan	89	•	87		97	•	81	•	76		83	
Community Blue (HealthNow)¹	88		90	A	95		73	•	66	•	70	•
Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc.	86		80		96		83	A	83	A	83	A
Excellus (Univera Healthcare) ²	84		87		96		69	•	87	A	69	•
Excellus BlueCross BlueShield ³	84		87		96		69	•	87	A	69	•
HIP Health Maintenance Organization	78	•	77	•	89	•	75	•	77	•	78	
Independent Health Association, Inc.	85		85		95		73	•	80		82	
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	88		82		95		74	•	82		81	

¹Includes data for HealthNow PPO membership.

Legend

- ▲ Significantly better than the NY HMO average.
- ▼ Significantly worse than the NY HMO average.

No symbol indicates that the average is not different from the NY HMO average.

²Includes data for Univera PPO membership.

³Includes data for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield PPO membership.

Quality of Providers—PPOs 2017

Data Source: DOH

Understanding the Chart

The symbols in the chart show how each PPO compares to the average for all New York PPOs. PPOs with a "▲" performed better than the New York PPO average.

Note: Symbols show statistically significant differences between each health insurance company's score and the New York average. "Statistically significant" means scores varied by more than could be accounted for by chance.

When comparing plan rates, note that some plans have the same rate but a different symbol. This is because plan rates are based on the number of members, which can differ among plans, and how much a plan's rate differs from the New York average.

Performance Compared to the New York PPO Average												
	Satisfaction With Satisfaction		Satisfaction		Doctors Who Are Certified by a Medical Board							
PPO ¹		onal ctor		ith ialist		rovider nication	Internal Medicine				Pediatrics	
NY PPO Average	84		83		95		77		78		78	
Aetna Life Insurance Company	85		81		96		77		79		83	A
CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc.	86		83		96		81	•	76		82	A
Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company	82		85		92		76		81	A	79	
Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc.	86		88		97		83	A	83	•	82	A
Group Health Incorporated	85		81		93		76		72	•	78	
MVP Health Services Corporation	82		79		97		74	•	82		80	
Oscar Insurance Corporation	78	•	77		95		71	•	25	•	11	•
Oxford Health Insurance, Inc.	88		87		95		76		85	A	79	A
UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company of New York	89		84		97		77		86	•	80	•

¹Data for Excellus BlueCross BlueShield PPO, HealthNow PPO and Univera PPO are included in the HMO tables.

Legend

- ▲ Significantly better than the NY PPO average.
- ▼ Significantly worse than the NY PPO average.

No symbol indicates that the average is not different from the NY PPO average.

Health Insurance Company Accreditation

Accreditation is a way of assessing health insurance company quality. It assures consumers that an independent organization has checked whether the health insurance company has effective systems in place for offering high-quality care. Health insurance companies may request an accreditation review; however, since accreditation is voluntary, not all companies request the review.

What Is NCQA Accreditation?

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving health care by assessing and reporting on the quality of health insurance companies. NCQA's team of doctors and health care experts conduct a comprehensive review of a health insurance company's structure (against more than 60 different standards) and processes to maintain and improve quality in five core areas.

Health insurance companies must also submit results of clinical performance measures (known as "HEDIS®1") and patient experience of care (known as "CAHPS") as part of the accreditation process.

HEDIS is an evaluation of the plan's performance on process and outcomes and makes it possible to compare company performance fairly.

CAHPS is a standardized survey used by health insurance companies.

For more information on NCQA, visit www.ncga.org.

NCQA Accreditation Status Levels Based on **Health Insurance Company Performance**

- Excellent indicates that the health insurance company demonstrates levels of service and clinical quality that meet or exceed NCQA's requirements for consumer protection and quality improvement. HEDIS/CAHPS results are in the highest range of national performance.
- Commendable indicates that the health insurance company demonstrates levels of service and clinical quality that meet NCQA's rigorous requirements for consumer protection and quality improvement.
- Accredited indicates that the health insurance company meets NCQA's basic requirements.
- **Provisional** indicates that the health insurance company meets some, but not all, of NCQA's basic requirements.
- Expired indicates that the health insurance company was previously accredited but has not requested NCQA review.
- Not Reviewed indicates that the health insurance company has not requested NCQA review.

¹HEDIS is a registered trademark of NCQA.

NCQA Accreditation Status as of July 2019¹

НМО	Accreditation Status
Capital District Physicians Health Plan	Excellent
Community Blue (HealthNow)	Commendable
Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc.	Accredited
Excellus Health Plan, Inc. (Excellus BlueCross BlueShield) ²	Excellent
Excellus Health Plan, Inc. (Univera Healthcare) ²	Excellent
HIP Health Maintenance Organization	Accredited
Independent Health Association, Inc.	Provisional
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	Commendable
UnitedHealthcare of New York, Inc.	Not Reviewed

EPO/PPO Health Plan	Accreditation Status
Aetna Life Insurance Company	Accredited
CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc.	Excellent
CIGNA Health and Life Insurance Company	Accredited
Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc.	Accredited
Excellus Health Plan, Inc. (Excellus BlueCross BlueShield) ²	Excellent
Excellus Health Plan, Inc. (Univera Healthcare) ²	Excellent
Group Health Incorporated	Accredited
HealthNow New York Inc.	Commendable
Independent Health Benefits Corporation	Expired
MVP Health Services Corporation	Not Reviewed
Nippon Life Insurance Company of America	Not Reviewed
Oscar Insurance Corporation	Accredited
Oxford Health Insurance, Inc.	Accredited
UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company of New York	Commendable

¹Accreditation status does not include Medicare or Medicaid products.

²Accreditation is based on HMO/POS/PPO/EPO combined.

NCQA Accreditation Status as of July 2019¹

Commercial Health Insurance Company	Accreditation Status
American Family Life Assurance Company of New York	Not Reviewed
Berkshire Life Insurance Company of America	Not Reviewed
CIGNA Life Insurance Company of New York	Not Reviewed
Combined Life Insurance Company of New York	Not Reviewed
Delta Dental of New York, Inc.	Not Reviewed
Dentcare Delivery Systems, Inc.	Not Reviewed
Eastern Vision Service Plan, Inc.	Not Reviewed
First Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company	Not Reviewed
First Unum Life Insurance Company	Not Reviewed
Genworth Life Insurance Company of New York	Not Reviewed
Guardian Life Insurance Company of America	Not Reviewed
Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company	Not Reviewed
HCC Life Insurance Company	Not Reviewed
HM Life Insurance Company of New York	Not Reviewed
John Hancock Life & Health Insurance Company	Not Reviewed
Liberty Life Assurance Company of Boston	Not Reviewed
Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company	Not Reviewed
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company	Not Reviewed
Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company	Not Reviewed
New York Life Insurance Company	Not Reviewed

Commercial Health Insurance Company	Accreditation Status
Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company	Not Reviewed
Paul Revere Life Insurance Company	Not Reviewed
Principal Life Insurance Company	Not Reviewed
Provident Life and Casualty Company	Not Reviewed
Prudential Insurance Company of America	Not Reviewed
ShelterPoint Life Insurance Company	Not Reviewed
Standard Life Insurance Company of New York	Not Reviewed
Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York	Not Reviewed
Sun Life and Health Insurance Company	Not Reviewed
Transamerica Financial Life Insurance	Not Reviewed
Wellfleet New York Insurance Company	Not Reviewed
WESCO Insurance Company	Not Reviewed
Westport Insurance Corporation	Not Reviewed

¹Accreditation status does not include Medicare or Medicaid products.

Overall Complaint Ranking

Each year, DFS receives complaints about health insurance companies from consumers and health care providers. After reviewing each complaint, DFS determines if the health insurance company acted appropriately. If DFS determines that the health insurance company did not act in accordance with its statutory and contractual obligations, the health insurance company must resolve the problem to come into compliance.

The overall ranking of all New York State insurance companies (HMOs, EPO/PPO health plans and commercial health insurance companies) is based on complaints closed by DFS. It is not possible to compare different types of health insurance companies on a standardized basis. Consumers should consider a health insurance company's ranking in its category, as well as its overall ranking.

Understanding the Charts

- Rank: Each health insurance company's ranking is based on how many complaints were resolved by DFS in favor of the member or provider, relative to the company's premiums. A lower number results in a higher ranking. A higher ranking means that the health insurance company had fewer complaints relative to its size.
- Total Complaints: Total number of complaints closed by DFS in 2018. Large health insurance companies may receive more complaints because they have more consumers than smaller health insurance companies.
- Complaints Upheld: Number of closed complaints resolved in favor of the member or provider because DFS determined that the health insurance company did not comply with statutory or contractual obligations. Complaints upheld by DFS are used to calculate the complaint ratio and ranking.

- Premiums: Dollar amount generated by a health insurance company in New York State during 2018. Premiums are used to calculate the complaint ratio so that health insurance companies of different sizes can be compared fairly. Premium data exclude Medicare and Medicaid.
- Complaint Ratio: Number of complaints upheld (complaints resolved by DFS in favor of the member or provider) divided by the health insurance company's premiums.

Overall Complaint Ranking—2018

Data Source: DFS

Health Insurers	Plan Type	Rank ^{1,2}	Total Complaints	Complaints Upheld	Premiums (Millions \$)	Complaint Ratio
Genworth Life Insurance Company of New York	Commercial	1	9	0	203.15	0.0000
Community Blue (HealthNow)	НМО	2	0	0	183.02	0.0000
ShelterPoint Life Insurance Company	Commercial	3	0	0	181.87	0.0000
Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company	Commercial	4	3	0	158.28	0.0000
Liberty Life Assurance Company of Boston	Commercial	5	0	0	99.10	0.0000
Wellfleet New York Insurance Company	Commercial	6	2	0	97.39	0.0000
Eastern Vision Service Plan, Inc.4	Commercial	7	0	0	97.37	0.0000
Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company	Commercial	8	4	0	85.19	0.0000
New York Life Insurance Company	Commercial	9	5	0	77.59	0.0000
HCC Life Insurance Company	Commercial	10	0	0	74.88	0.0000
First Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company	Commercial	11	2	0	60.85	0.0000
Paul Revere Life Insurance Company	Commercial	12	3	0	59.62	0.0000
HM Life Insurance Company of New York	Commercial	13	0	0	59.14	0.0000
Westport Insurance Corporation	Commercial	14	0	0	50.59	0.0000
Independent Health Benefits Corporation	EPO/PPO	15	11	1	565.62	0.0018
Capital District Physicians Health Plan	НМО	16	9	1	541.47	0.0018
MVP Health Services Corporation ⁵	EPO/PPO	17	10	3	734.03	0.0041
American Family Life Assurance Company of New York	Commercial	18	10	2	317.98	0.0063
Guardian Life Insurance Company of America	Commercial	19	22	3	424.89	0.0071
CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc.	EPO/PPO	20	9	4	508.50	0.0079
Sun Life and Health Insurance Company	Commercial	21	7	1	120.09	0.0083

¹ If the ratios are the same among health insurance companies, the health insurance company with the higher premium amount receives a higher ranking.

²Health insurance companies with a lower complaint ratio receive a higher ranking.

³Plan issues dental coverage only.

⁴Plan issues vision coverage only.

⁵Complaints, complaint ratios and premiums include data from the health insurance company's EPO, PPO and commercial business.

Overall Complaint Ranking—2018, continued

Data Source: DFS

Health Insurers	Plan Type	Rank ^{1,2}	Total Complaints	Complaints Upheld	Premiums (Millions \$)	Complaint Ratio
Independent Health Association, Inc.	НМО	22	18	2	228.96	0.0087
HealthNow New York Inc.5	EPO/PPO	23	42	14	1,502.44	0.0093
Excellus Health Plan, Inc.5	EPO/PPO	24	88	27	2,866.75	0.0094
Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	Commercial	25	6	1	99.36	0.0101
Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company	Commercial	26	1	1	97.53	0.0103
Principal Life Insurance Company	Commercial	27	2	1	75.29	0.0133
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company	Commercial	28	34	9	640.22	0.0141
Prudential Insurance Company of America	Commercial	29	13	2	135.46	0.0148
Standard Life Insurance Company of New York	Commercial	30	3	1	67.70	0.0148
Excellus Health Plan	НМО	31	14	6	397.21	0.0151
First Unum Life Insurance Company	Commercial	32	16	5	315.09	0.0159
Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York	Commercial	33	1	1	62.36	0.0160
Dentcare Delivery Systems, Inc. ³	Commercial	34	5	1	60.83	0.0164
Delta Dental of New York, Inc. ³	Commercial	35	20	3	180.47	0.0166
John Hancock Life & Health Insurance Company	Commercial	36	13	2	102.18	0.0196
WESCO Insurance Company	Commercial	37	2	1	50.67	0.0197
Berkshire Life Insurance Company of America	Commercial	38	4	2	77.33	0.0259
Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company	Commercial	39	5	2	74.05	0.0270
CIGNA Life Insurance Company of New York	Commercial	40	13	4	144.69	0.0276
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	НМО	41	38	17	584.97	0.0291
Combined Life Insurance Company of New York	Commercial	42	22	4	129.71	0.0308
Provident Life and Casualty Insurance Company	Commercial	43	2	2	51.58	0.0388
UnitedHealthcare of New York, Inc.	НМО	44	79	35	792.96	0.0441

¹ fthe ratios are the same among health insurance companies, the health insurance company with the higher premium amount receives a higher ranking.

²Health insurance companies with a lower complaint ratio receive a higher ranking.

³Plan issues dental coverage only.

⁴Plan issues vision coverage only.

⁵Complaints, complaint ratios and premiums include data from the health insurance company's EPO, PPO and commercial business.

Overall Complaint Ranking—2018, continued

Data Source: DFS

Health Insurers	Plan Type	Rank ^{1,2}	Total Complaints	Complaints Upheld	Premiums (Millions \$)	Complaint Ratio
Nippon Life Insurance Company of America ³	EPO/PPO	45	11	3	62.67	0.0479
Oxford Health Insurance, Inc. ³	EPO/PPO	46	1,054	319	6,590.88	0.0484
UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company of New York ³	EPO/PPO	47	289	106	1,966.61	0.0539
CIGNA Health and Life Insurance Company ³	EPO/PPO	48	180	102	1,157.74	0.0881
Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc.3	EPO/PPO	49	423	227	2,549.34	0.0890
Oscar Insurance Corporation	EPO/PPO	50	132	39	298.80	0.1305
HIP Health Maintenance Organization	НМО	51	688	400	2,501.09	0.1599
Aetna Life Insurance Company ³	EPO/PPO	52	1,300	455	1,975.90	0.2303
Group Health Incorporated ³	EPO/PPO	53	1,515	1,111	806.75	1.3771
Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc.	НМО	54	338	193	124.76	1.5470
	•	Total	6,477	3,113	31,472.97	0.0989

¹ fthe ratios are the same among health insurance companies, the health insurance company with the higher premium amount receives a higher ranking.

²Health insurance companies with a lower complaint ratio receive a higher ranking.

³Complaints, complaint ratios and premiums include data from the health insurance company's EPO, PPO and commercial business.

Independent Dispute Resolution

New York State law protects consumers from surprise bills when services are performed by a non-participating (out-of-network) doctor at a participating hospital or ambulatory surgical center in your health insurance company's network, or when a participating doctor refers an insured patient to a non-participating provider. The law also protects insured patients from bills for out-of-network emergency services.

Surprise Bills

- When you receive services from a non-participating doctor at a participating hospital or ambulatory surgical center, the bill you receive for those services will be a surprise bill covered by your insurer if:
 - A participating doctor was not available, or
 - A non-participating doctor provided services without your knowledge, or
 - Unforeseen medical circumstances arose at the time the health care services were provided.
- When you are referred by your participating doctor to a non-participating provider, the resulting bill is a surprise bill if you did not sign a written consent that you knew the services would be out-of-network and would result in costs not covered by your health plan. The bill will not be a surprise bill if you chose to receive services from a non-participating doctor instead of from an available participating doctor.
- You will be protected from a surprise bill and you will only be responsible for your in-network copayment, coinsurance or deductible if you:
 - Sign an assignment of benefits form¹ to permit your health care provider to seek payment for the bill from your health plan and
 - Send the form to your health plan and health care provider and include a copy of the bill or bills you do not think you should pay.

Hold Harmless Protections for Insured Patients for Emergency Services

 Your health plan must protect you from bills for out-of-network emergency services in a hospital if you have coverage through a health insurance company subject to New York State law. You do not have to pay non-participating provider charges for emergency services (typically for services in a hospital emergency room) that are more than your in-network copayment, coinsurance or deductible. Let your health plan know if you receive a bill from a non-participating provider for emergency services.

An assignment of benefits allows your health care provider to seek payment from your health plan for a surprise bill. With your assignment of benefits, the health care provider cannot seek payment from you for a surprise bill, except for the copayment, coinsurance or deductible that you would owe if you used a participating provider. For more information or to obtain an assignment of benefits form visit: https://www.dfs.nv.gov/consumers/health_insurance/surprise_medical_bills

Independent Dispute Resolution

In the event of a disagreement, a provider or health insurance company may dispute a payment or a charge for emergency services or a surprise bill through a process called Independent Dispute Resolution (IDR).² The dispute will be reviewed by an Independent Dispute Resolution Entity (IDRE). A decision will be made by a reviewer with training and experience in health care billing, reimbursement, and usual and customary charges in consultation with a licensed doctor in active practice in the same or similar specialty as the doctor providing the service that is the subject of the dispute. If the claim in dispute involves a consumer covered by health insurance, the IDRE determines which is more reasonable, the amount billed by the non-participating provider or the insurance company's payment. Uninsured patients or patients with self-insured coverage may also be able to file an IDR if they receive a bill from a doctor for emergency services provided in New York if they believe the bill is excessive.

The IDRE will make a determination within 30 days of receipt of the dispute.

Understanding the Chart

- Claims Not Eligible: Number of IDR applications which were deemed not eligible for the IDR process. Some examples of ineligible applications include: services provided by a participating provider or non-emergency services.
- Health Plan Payment More Reasonable: Number of IDRs closed in 2018 where the IDRE determined the health plan's payment for the service was more reasonable than the amount the provider billed.
- Provider Charges More Reasonable: Number of IDRs closed in 2018 where the IDRE determined the amount charged by the provider was more reasonable than the amount paid by the health plan.

- Split Decision: Number of IDRs closed in 2018 where the IDRE determined that the health plan's payment was more reasonable for one or more CPT codes³ on the claim and the provider's charge was reasonable for the remaining codes.
- Settlement Reached: Number of IDRs closed in 2018 as a result of a settlement between the health care provider and the health plan. The IDRE may direct a good faith negotiation for settlement if settlement would be likely or the health plan's payment and the provider's bill are unreasonably far apart.
- Total Received: Number of IDR applications submitted in 2018.

¹ The following emergency services are exempt from the IDR process: CPT³ codes 99281– 99285, 99288, 99291-99292, 99217-99220, 99224-99226, and 99234-99236 if the bill does not exceed 120% of the usual and customary cost and the fee disputed is \$683.22 (for 2019 and adjusted annually for inflation rates) or less after any applicable co-insurance, co-payment and deductible.

² For more about the IDR process and to obtain an IDR provider application visit: https://www.dfs.nv.gov/apps and licensing/health insurers/independent dispute resolution

³ CPT codes copyright 2019 American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT is a trademark of the AMA. No fee schedules, basic units, relative values or related listings are included in CPT. The AMA assumes no liability for the data contained herein. Applicable FARS/DFARS restrictions apply to government use.

Independent Dispute Resolution—2018 Data Source: DFS

Category	Emergency Services	Surprise Bills
Claims Not Eligible	187	165
IDRE Decision Rendered for Eligible Claims:		
Health Plan Payment More Reasonable	174	50
Provider Charges More Reasonable	196	222
Split Decision	208	220
Settlement Reached	83	66
Total Received	848	723

How Health Insurance Companies Pay Health Care Providers

New York State health insurance companies pay health care providers ("providers") in a variety of contractual methods; some of them are described below. A typical health insurance company may use more than one method. No one method is "best" or "right." Ask your doctor if you have questions or concerns about how your health insurance company pays providers.

Payment Methods

- Fee for Service: The health insurance company pays providers for each office visit, procedure and test. Payment is usually based on an allowable fee or "usual and customary reimbursement."
- Capitation: The health insurance company pays providers the same amount every month for every member under their primary care, regardless of the services a member receives. Supporters of capitation believe it gives physicians an incentive to keep people healthy through preventive care in order to avoid costly illnesses; others believe it creates an incentive to avoid providing necessary, but expensive, services.
- Bonus: The health insurance company pays providers additional amounts if they meet quality, customer-service or cost-saving goals.

- Withhold: The health insurance company withholds a portion of the provider's payment to cover unexpected services such as specialty care, laboratory services or hospitalization. If patients do not use these services, the health insurance company returns the withheld amount to the physician. Some believe that this method helps reduce unnecessary expenses; others believe it discourages providers from offering necessary services.
- Balance Billing: A billing practice in which consumers are billed for the difference between what their insurance company pays and the fee that the provider normally charges. Balance billing is prohibited in certain circumstances such as a surprise bill¹ or emergency services², but may occur if members knowingly use the services of out-of-network providers under a PPO or POS arrangement.

¹A surprise bill is when you received services from a non-participating physician at a participating hospital or ambulatory surgical center, where a participating physician was not available; or a nonparticipating physician provided services without your knowledge; or unforeseen medical circumstances arose at the time the services were provided. You did not choose to receive services from a nonparticipating physician instead of from an available participating physician; OR You were referred by a participating physician to a non-participating provider, but you did not sign a written consent that you knew the services would be out-of-network and would result in costs not covered by your insurer. A referral occurs: (1) during a visit with your participating physician, a non-participating provider treats you; or (2) your participating physician takes a specimen from you in the office and sends it to a non-participating laboratory or pathologist; or (3) for any other health care services when referrals are required under your plan.

² Your health plan must protect you from bills for out-of-network emergency services in a hospital if you have coverage through an HMO or insurer subject to NY law (coverage that is not self-insured). You do not have to pay non-participating provider charges for emergency services (typically for services in a hospital emergency room) that are more than your in-network co-payment, coinsurance or deductible.

Telephone Numbers for Health Insurance Companies

НМО	
Capital District Physicians Health Plan	800-777-2273
Community Blue (HealthNow)	800-544-2583
Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc.	800-261-5962
Excellus Health Plan	800-633-6066
HIP Health Maintenance Organization	800-447-8255
Independent Health Association, Inc.	800-453-1910
MVP Health Plan, Inc.	800-825-5687
UnitedHealthcare of New York, Inc.	877-832-7734

EPO/PPO Health Plan	
Aetna Life Insurance Company	800-872-3862
CDPHP Universal Benefits, Inc.	877-269-2134
Cigna Health & Life Insurance Company	800-244-6224
Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc.	800-261-5962
Excellus Health Plan, Inc.	800-847-1200
Group Health Incorporated (GHI)	800-444-2333
HealthNow New York Inc.	800-888-0757
Independent Health Benefits Corporation	800-453-1910
MVP Health Services Corporation	800-825-5687
Nippon Life Insurance Company of America	800-374-1835
Oscar Insurance Corporation	855-672-2788
Oxford Health Insurance, Inc.	800-969-7480
UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company of New York	877-832-7734

Telephone Numbers for Health Insurance Companies

Commercial Health Insurance Co	ompany ¹
American Family Life Assurance Company of New York	800-366-3436
Berkshire Life Insurance Company of America	800-819-2468
CIGNA Life Insurance Company of New York	800-244-6224
Combined Life Insurance Company of New York	800-490-1322
Delta Dental of New York, Inc.	800-932-0783
Dentcare Delivery Systems, Inc.	800-468-0608
Eastern Vision Service Plan, Inc.	800-877-7195
First Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company	800-353-3986
First Unum Life Insurance Company	866-679-3054
Genworth Life Insurance Company of New York	888-436-9678
Guardian Life Insurance Company of America	888-482-7342
Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company	800-523-2233
HCC Life Insurance Company	800-447-0460
HM Life Insurance Company of New York	800-328-5433
John Hancock Life & Health Insurance Company	800-732-5543
Liberty Life Assurance Company of Boston	800-373-0378

Commercial Health Insurance Co	mpany ¹
Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company	800-272-2216
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company	800-334-4298
Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company	800-205-8193
New York Life Insurance Company	800-695-9873
Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company	800-388-8123
Paul Revere Life Insurance Company	800-265-3199
Principal Life Insurance Company	800-986-3343
Provident Life and Casualty Insurance Company	866-679-3054
Prudential Insurance Company of America	877-301-1212
ShelterPoint Life Insurance Company	800-365-4999
Standard Life Insurance Company of New York	888-937-4783
Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York	800-477-0087
Sun Life and Health Insurance Company	800-786-5433
Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company	888-763-7474
Wellfleet New York Insurance Company	877-657-5030
WESCO Insurance Company	877-528-7878
Westport Insurance Corporation	800-255-6931

¹Commercial health insurance companies generally do not offer health insurance coverage to individuals.

Questions About This Guide?

Contact: New York State Department of Financial Services

One Commerce Plaza Albany, NY 12257 800-342-3736 (Monday-Friday, 8:30AM-4:30PM)

For printed copies of the Guide, visit:

https://www.dfs.ny.gov/consumers/health insurance/health insurance compl aint rankings, or call DFS at the phone number listed above.

Problem With Your Health Insurance Company?

First, contact your health insurance company's Member Services Department to try to resolve the issue. If the problem is not resolved to your satisfaction, call the appropriate state agency for assistance.

For issues concerning payment, reimbursement, coverage, network adequacy, benefits and premiums, contact:

Consumer Assistance Unit New York State Department of Financial Services One Commerce Plaza Albany, NY 12257 800-342-3736

https://www.dfs.nv.gov/complaint

If you were denied coverage of health care services because your health insurance company considers them experimental, investigational, not medically necessary, a clinical trial, a rare disease treatment, an out-ofnetwork service or, an out-of-network referral, contact:

New York State Department of Financial Services New York State External Appeal Division

99 Washington Avenue Box 177 Albany, NY 12210

800-400-8882

Email: externalappealquestions@dfs.ny.gov

For general information:

https://www.dfs.ny.gov/complaints/file external appeal

For an external appeal application:

https://www.dfs.nv.gov/docs/insurance/extapp/extappl.pdf

For issues concerning HMO quality of care, contact:

New York State Department of Health Managed Care Complaint Unit OHIP DHPCO 1CP-1609

Albany, NY 12237

800-206-8125

https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/managed_care/complaints/index.htm

Under federal law, if you receive health coverage through a self-insured plan covered by ERISA, New York consumer protections and insurance laws do not apply. If you have a complaint regarding a self-insured plan. contact:

United States Department of Labor

Employee Benefits Security Administration 200 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20210

202-693-8700 866-444-EBSA

https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa

For issues concerning insurance fraud, contact:

New York State Department of Financial Services Insurance Frauds Bureau 1 State Street

New York, NY 10004

888-FRAUDNY | 888-372-8369

https://www.dfs.ny.gov/complaints/report fraud

Information About NY State of Health

Under the Affordable Care Act, New York State operates a health benefits exchange called the New York State of Health (NYSOH). An exchange is an organized marketplace designed to help people shop for and enroll in health insurance coverage.

The NYSOH is an open and transparent marketplace where individuals and small businesses can compare plans based on cost, benefits and other important features, apply for and receive financial help with premiums and cost-sharing based on income, and select and enroll in health insurance coverage. The NYSOH also helps eligible consumers enroll in other programs including Medicaid, Child Health Plus, and the Essential Plan. Federal tax credits may be available to help qualified consumers and small businesses pay for the coverage.

Essential Health Benefits

The Affordable Care Act and New York law ensure that health plans offered in the NYSOH for individuals and small businesses include a comprehensive package of items and services, known as essential health benefits. Health plans offered outside of the NYSOH to individuals and small businesses must also include coverage of essential health benefits.

Essential health benefits must include items and services within at least the following categories:

- Ambulatory patient services.
- Emergency services.
- Hospitalization.
- Maternity and newborn care.
- Mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment (this includes counseling and psychotherapy).
- Prescription drugs.
- Rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices (services and devices to help people with injuries, disabilities, or chronic conditions gain or recover mental and physical skills).
- Laboratory services.
- Preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management.
- Pediatric services, including oral and vision care.

Health plans offered inside and outside the NYSOH to individuals and small businesses must provide certain levels of benefits. The Affordable Care act defines the levels in four metal tiers:

- · Bronze.
- Silver.
- Gold.
- Platinum.

The lower metal tiers (Bronze and Silver) will have lower premiums but consumers will be required to cover more of the cost of each service they receive. This may be achieved through higher deductibles, co-payments and/or co-insurance. The higher metal tiers (Gold and Platinum) have higher premiums but a lower cost share amount for each service.

This concept allows greater flexibility for consumers when choosing a health

Consumers should assess their health care needs and choose the plan that best suits their requirements.

More details about the metal tiers and plans available through NYSOH may be obtained by visiting: www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov

Small Businesses

What is considered a small business with regard to NY State of Health?

In general, if you have 100 or fewer full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, you are considered a small business and may get employee insurance through the Small Business Marketplace.

What is the Small Business Marketplace?

The Small Business Marketplace helps you find high quality, affordable health insurance coverage for your employees and their families.

The Small Business Marketplace gives you choice and control over health costs.

- You can research comparable health plans online that will help you make a decision that's right for your business.
- You may qualify for a small business health care tax credit worth up to 50% of your premium costs. You can still deduct from your taxes the rest of your premium costs not covered by the tax credit.

Applying for Health Insurance Offered on NY State of Health

Open enrollment is November 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020. You must enroll by December 15, 2019 for coverage to start January 1, 2020. A Special Enrollment Period may also be available to individuals who have had a qualifying life event.

For more information on how to apply for coverage through NYSOH or to see if you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period, contact 855-355-5777 or visit: www.nvstateofhealth.nv.gov

Questions about the Affordable Care Act and the NY State of Health?

For more information about NYSOH, contact 855-355-5777, or visit: www.nvstateofhealth.nv.gov

For more information about the Affordable Care Act. visit: www.healthcare.gov

Questions About Medicare, Medicaid, Child Health Plus and the Essential Plan?

For information about Medicare, Medicare Advantage or Medicare Part D coverage, contact:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services 800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227) or visit: www.medicare.gov

New York State Office for the Aging Health Insurance Information Counseling & Assistance Program (HIICAP), contact 800-701-0501 or visit: www.aging.nv.gov/healthbenefits

For information about New York's Medicaid program, contact your local county Department of Social Services. For a listing of local Departments of Social Services visit:

https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/ldss.htm

Children's Medicaid and Child Health Plus

Health insurance program for children under 19 years of age.

Your child may benefit from services through Children's Medicaid or Child Health Plus. Services include well-child care, immunizations, x-ray and lab tests, surgery, emergency care, prescription and nonprescription drugs, dental care, vision care, speech and hearing, emergency ambulance transportation to a hospital and more.

For information about eligibility requirements for Children's Medicaid or Child Health Plus. visit:

https://www.health.ny.gov/health care/child health plus/eligibility and cos t.htm

For more information about Child Health Plus, contact 800-698-4KIDS (800-698-4543) or visit:

https://www.health.nv.gov/health_care/child_health_plus/index.htm

To apply for Child Health Plus, contact the NYSOH at 855-355-5777 or visit:

https://www.health.ny.gov/health care/child health plus/how do i apply.ht m

Essential Plan

Health insurance program for lower-income individuals who don't qualify for Medicaid or Child Health Plus.

For more information about the Essential Plan, contact 855-355-5777 or visit:

https://info.nvstateofhealth.nv.gov/essentialplan

To apply for the Essential Plan, contact the NYSOH at 855-355-5777 or visit:

https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov/

Questions About Group Health Insurance Through COBRA and Young Adult Coverage?

COBRA and Continuation of Benefits

Under the federal Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA), if you work for a company that has 20 or more employees, you and your family may have the right to purchase group health insurance for a limited period if you lose coverage due to certain qualifying events (e.g., iob loss, iob transition, death and divorce). The New York State continuation coverage law resembles the federal COBRA. It applies to employers with fewer than 20 employees and gives workers who work for employers with fewer than 20 employees and their families the right to continue to purchase group health insurance for limited periods of time when they would otherwise lose coverage due to certain qualifying events.

For more information about COBRA and Continuation of Benefits. visit:

https://www.dfs.ny.gov/consumers/health insurance/cobra and premium assistance

For frequently asked questions about COBRA and Continuation of Benefits visit:

https://www.dfs.nv.gov/consumers/health_insurance/cobra_fags

Coverage through Age 29 or Young Adult Coverage

Under New York Law, young adults may be able to stay on their parents' health insurance through the age of 29.

For more information about Young Adult Coverage, visit: https://www.dfs.nv.gov/consumers/health_insurance/cobra_and_premium assistance

Questions about Healthy NY?

The Healthy NY program offers reduced cost health insurance to eligible small businesses and their employees.

For more information about the Healthy NY program, contact 866-HEALTHYNY (866-432-5849) or visit:

https://www.dfs.nv.gov/consumers/small_businesses/about_healthv_nv_

Related Resources

NYS DOH Managed Care Plan Performance Reports

For health plan performance on primary and preventive health care, access to health care, behavioral health and enrollee satisfaction, visit: https://www.health.nv.gov/health_care/managed_care/reports/

This worksheet can help you organize and compare quality information about the health plans available to you. Enter information in the Guide and in other materials you may have gotten from your employer and the health insurer. Start by entering the names of health plans you are considering, then enter quality information for the categories important to you.

Quality Information	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.
Complaints				
Enter ranking information.				
See page 4.				
Prompt Pay Complaints				
Enter ranking information.				
See page 9.				
Internal Appeals				
Enter reversal rate information.				
Note: Lower rate is better.				
See page 14.				

Quality Information	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.
External Appeals				
Enter reversal rate information.				
Note: A lower rate is better.				
See page 19.				
Grievances				
Enter reversal rate information.				
Note: A lower rate is better.				
See page 24.				

Quality Information	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.
Access and Services				
Review and select measure(s) important to you, then enter performance information from the health plan for those measure(s). See page 29.				
Child and Adolescent Health				
Review and select measure(s) important to you, then enter performance information from the health plan for those measure(s).				
See page 32.				

Quality Information	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.
Adult Health Review and select measure(s) important to you, then enter performance information from the health plan for those measure(s). See page 37.				
Women's Health Review and select measure(s) important to you, then enter performance information from the health plan for those measure(s). See page 42.				

Quality Information	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.
Behavioral Health				
Review and select measure(s) important to you, then enter performance information from the health plan for those measure(s). See page 45.				
Managing Medications Review and select measure(s) important to you, then enter performance information from the health plan for those measure(s). See page 48.				

Quality Information	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.
Diabetes Care				
Review and select measure(s) important to you, then enter performance information from the health plan for those measure(s). See page 51.				
Quality of Providers Review and select measure(s) important to you, then enter performance information from the health plan for those measure(s). See page 54.				

Quality Information	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.	Health Plan Name Enter the health plan you are interested in that offers benefits and/or doctors you want.
Accreditation Status Enter the health plan's accreditation status. See page 57.				
Cost Review cost information from your employer or health insurers. Enter information about monthly premium, deductible, co-pays and co-insurance.				