



**32BJ Benefit Funds**  
 25 West 18th Street  
 New York, NY 10011-4676

www.32bjfunds.org  
 800-551-3225 Member Services

December 4, 2018

Dear 32BJ Member,

I am pleased to announce that Empire BlueCross BlueShield and NewYork-Presbyterian have successfully negotiated a new contract. Through this contract, NewYork-Presbyterian hospitals and doctors will continue to accept our insurance.

**Are copays for care changing at New York-Presbyterian?**

Yes, NewYork-Presbyterian is a valuable part of our network, but the cost of care is much more expensive at NewYork-Presbyterian hospitals. Here are some examples of NewYork-Presbyterian’s high prices compared to other hospitals in New York City.

Type of Inpatient Care	NYC Hospitals, Average	NY Presbyterian, Average
Hip Replacement & Hip Revision	\$57,568	\$82,843
Knee Replacement & Knee Revision	\$61,607	\$67,322
Bariatric Surgery	\$45,556	\$56,858
Having a Baby, Cesarean-Section	\$23,960	\$36,534
Having a Baby, Vaginal Delivery	\$16,675	\$23,635

Therefore, as of April 1, 2019 scheduled inpatient admissions at NewYork-Presbyterian hospitals in Manhattan will have a \$1,000 copay instead of the standard \$100 copay. This increased copay will not apply to emergency inpatient admissions, just planned inpatient admissions. The copay for outpatient hospital care at NewYork-Presbyterian’s Manhattan hospitals will also increase from \$75 to \$250.

**Will copays change for other higher cost hospitals?**

Yes, the cost of care at Northwell Health, NYU Langone Health, and the Westchester Medical Center is also very expensive so they will have the same copay of \$1,000 for planned inpatient admissions and \$250 for outpatient hospital care. The copay for emergency care will not change. A complete listing of the hospitals with the \$1,000 hospital copay and the \$250 outpatient copay are enclosed in this mailing.

**Are there high-quality hospital systems that will continue to provide care for the current \$100 copay?**

There are over 100 New York hospitals that will have a \$100 copay for inpatient hospital admissions and a \$75 copay for outpatient care. Included are world renowned hospital systems such as Mount

Sinai Health System, Montefiore Medical Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and Hospital for Special Surgery. In January, a complete listing of the \$100 copay hospitals in the New York metropolitan area will be on the 32BJ Benefits Funds website, [www.32bjfunds.org](http://www.32bjfunds.org).

**What can I do to avoid high hospital copays?**

Our health plan provides access to thousands of high quality doctors and medical services at low copays, and a large network of Five Star Centers that have \$0 copay for many kinds of care. Call the 32BJ Benefit Funds at 800-551-3225. We can help you get the care you need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Goldberger".

Peter Goldberger  
Executive Director