



Update on Empire BlueCross/BlueShield Contract Negotiations with Stony Brook University Hospital

Steven L. Strongwater, MD, CEO, Stony Brook University Hospital

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To: The Stony Brook University Campus Community

I wanted to provide you with an update regarding contract negotiations between Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) and Empire BlueCross BlueShield (BlueCross).

We are encouraged that SBUH and BlueCross have come to an understanding in principle for a new contract. In fact, BlueCross has taken it a step further and issued a press release* on Friday, July 24, stating that we have "reached a 'multi-year' agreement for a new contract, effective August 1, 2009."

We look forward to signing a contract that includes those terms with which all parties agree. We anticipate a final agreement will be signed before the expiration date, which is July 31, and if we don't sign a contract by then, BlueCross has indicated that it will provide an extension and members may continue to receive care at SBUH. We will keep you apprised of any developments via a special section on the homepage of our Web site -- <http://www.stonybrookmedicalcenter.org> . If we can help you with any additional information, please feel free to contact the SBUH internal Information Hotline at (631) 444-4392.

* Press release issued by Empire on Friday, July 24, 2009:

Empire BlueCross BlueShield And Stony Brook University Hospital Reach New Multi-year Agreement

New York, July 24, 2009 - Empire BlueCross BlueShield and Stony Brook Hospital on Long Island announced today that they have reached agreement for a new contract, effective August 1, 2009. Under the multi-year agreement, Empire members will continue to have access to Stony Brook Hospital as in-network.

"We are pleased to extend the long-standing relationship we have with Stony Brook," noted Mark Wagar, president and CEO, Empire BlueCross BlueShield. "Empire is proud to continue supporting a hospital that has established itself as an asset to the community and a respected partner in providing both quality and affordable care."

Stony Brook University Hospital remains "in-network" and no action is required by Empire members to continue receiving services at their facilities. Members with questions about their plan or coverage can contact their specific member service representative at the number on their ID card. General information can be found at <http://www.empireblue.com> .

