

# Anthem Blue Cross Discusses Contract Negotiation with Memorial Sloan Kettering: What Empire Plan Members Need to Know

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield is currently in discussions with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) to keep them in our network through 2025 and beyond. Our current agreement with MSK expires at the end of this year, but **MSK will remain in Anthem's network until at least March 1, 2025.**

We are highly confident that an agreement will be reached that keeps MSK in our network through 2025 and beyond. We continue to talk frequently with MSK and work hard to reach an agreement,

## **This is about healthcare affordability**

Our negotiations focus on the prices that MSK will charge our members for care. MSK is a world-class cancer institute and is currently paid accordingly. In fact, Anthem currently reimburses MSK at rates at or above other national cancer centers.

MSK is currently asking for double digit price increases each year for the next three years. This would send prices skyrocketing for New Yorkers and their employers. As just one example, under MSK's proposed price increase, an already-expensive mastectomy cost would be \$23,800 more in 2027 than it does right now. These are increases that would be directly felt by our members and their employers.

We understand that, like all New York businesses, hospitals face cost pressures. That's why we have offered reasonable price increases that keep MSK well-funded, are like those in place with other national cancer centers and would maintain access to affordable care at MSK.

Affordable healthcare is important. What good is a world-class care center if no one can afford it?

### **What Anthem members should do**

Our members should continue accessing care at MSK as they have in the past. We remain confident an agreement will be reached that keeps MSK in our network beyond March 1, 2025. However, if an agreement can't be reached and MSK chooses to leave our network, any member who begins receiving services prior to March 1, 2025, will be covered through their entire course of treatment.

**Please note that this situation does not impact any services covered under The Empire Plan's Medical/Surgical Program, administered by UnitedHealthcare. MSK remains a Cancer Resource Services (CRS) contracted Center of Excellence for Cancer.**

It's important to know that Anthem's provider network includes other quality facilities right here in New York, including:

- NYU Langone Health Tisch Hospital
- NYU Langone Health- Brooklyn
- Northwell- Long Island Jewish Medical Center
- Northwell- North Shore University Hospital
- Northwell- Staten Island University Hospital
- CHS- Mercy Medical Center
- CHS- Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center
- Westchester Medical Center
- Montefiore Hospital- Moses Campus
- Montefiore Hospital- Einstein Campus

**Anthem always covers any medically necessary emergency services for our members no matter where they get care.**

**Commitment to our members**

We will keep working with MSK to try to reach an agreement that's focused on access to quality, low-cost healthcare. We will update this site as we continue our efforts.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q: Who is impacted?**

A: Please note there is no immediate change to healthcare coverage. MSK is still in our provider network through at least March 1, 2025. We are working hard to keep them in our network beyond that date and we're confident an agreement will be reached. But, if not, Anthem members will be impacted.

### **Q: What should Anthem members do?**

A: Nothing different. Empire Plan members should continue to access care at MSK or any of our other in-network hospital.

### **Q: Where can members go for cancer care if MSK leaves Anthem's network on March 1, 2025?**

A: You can find alternative providers in your plan by logging in to [anthembluecross.com/nys](https://anthembluecross.com/nys), visiting the Sydney Health app, or by calling the Empire Plan at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447). Press or say 2 for the Hospital Program.

### **Q: Where can members go for information?**

A: We will update this page as negotiations continue in the coming weeks and months. Please return here for updates or contact the Empire Plan at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447). Press or say 2 for the Hospital Program.

### **Q: What if I am currently receiving care at MSK facilities?**

A: It is important to remember that MSK will stay in Anthem's network through at least March 1, 2025, and we are optimistic that a new agreement will be reached.

Even if a new agreement isn't reached, you may be able to continue your care at MSK facilities beyond March 1, 2025, if you are getting certain types of care. Anthem members who begin receiving services prior to March 1, 2025, will be covered through their entire course of treatment. "Treatment" means that the cancer treatment plan has been completed, the patient is 90 days post-treatment and either shows the intended results of the treatment or is receiving maintenance treatment to control or prevent recurrence of cancer. In addition, follow-up appointments/care will be available for up to 90 days after treatment ends.

**Q: What should I do if I need emergency medical care from MSK?**

A: Anyone in need of emergency care should immediately go to the nearest emergency room or call 9-1-1. Anthem will cover emergency services for our members whether the hospital is in-network or not. It is important to remember that MSK will remain in Anthem's network through at least March 1, 2025. After that date, Anthem members can still receive emergency care at MSK.

**Q: What if I have further questions?**

A: Anthem is available to support impacted members who need help getting care. For more help, call the Empire Plan at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447). Press or say 2 for the Hospital Program. Please check this site for updates about our efforts to reach an agreement with MSK.