



STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 11729  
Albany, NY 12211

## Notice of Decision

Decision Date: November 29, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]  
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000022241

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On November 6, 2017, you appeared by telephone at a hearing on your appeal of NY State of Health's July 17, 2017 disenrollment notice and July 17, 2017 enrollment notice.

The enclosed Decision, rendered after that hearing, is issued by the Appeals Unit of NY State of Health.

If you have questions about your Decision, you can contact us by:

- Calling the Customer Service Center at 1-855-355-5777
- Sending Mail to:  
NY State of Health Appeals  
P.O. Box 11729  
Albany, NY 12211
- Sending a Fax to 1-855-900-5557

When contacting NY State of Health about your appeal and/or the Decision, please refer to the Appeal Identification number and the Account ID at the top of this notice.

### Legal Authority

We are sending you this notice in accordance with 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 155.545.

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## Decision

Decision Date: November 29, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]  
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## Issue

The issue presented for review by the Appeals Unit of NY State of Health is:

Did NY State of Health (NYSOH) properly determine that your spouse's eligibility for and enrollment in the Essential Plan ended effective August 31, 2017?

Did NYSOH properly determine that your spouse's eligibility for and enrollment in her Medicaid Managed Care plan began effective September 1, 2017?

## Procedural History

On August 10, 2016, NYSOH redetermined your household's eligibility for health insurance.

On August 11, 2016, NYSOH issued an eligibility determination notice stating that you and your spouse were eligible to enroll in the Essential Plan, effective September 1, 2016.

On August 16, 2016, NYSOH issued an enrollment notice, confirming your selection of an Essential Plan for the enrollment of you and your spouse, with an enrollment start date of September 1, 2016.

On July 2, 2017, NYSOH issued a renewal and eligibility determination notice stating that based on information about you from state and federal data source obtained as of July 1, 2017, you and your spouse were found to have qualified

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for health care coverage under Medicaid, effective September 1, 2017. This was because the data sources showed your income to be below the income limit for Medicaid. You were instructed to return to NYSOH between July 16, 2017 and August 15, 2017 to select a plan.

On July 16, 2017, NYSOH issued an enrollment notice confirming that NYSOH enrolled you in a Medicaid Managed Care plan as of July 16, 2017 because it was similar to the coverage you had before under the Essential Plan. The notice stated that the MMC plan coverage for you and your spouse would begin effective September 1, 2017.

On July 17, 2017, NYSOH issued a disenrollment notice confirming that the Essential Plan coverage for you and your spouse ended effective August 31, 2017.

On September 7, 2017, you spoke to NYSOH's Account Review Unit and appealed the end date of your spouse's Essential Plan as of August 31, 2017, and the start date of your spouse's MMC plan as of September 1, 2017.

On November 6, 2017, you had a telephone hearing with a Hearing Officer from NYSOH's Appeals Unit. The record was developed during the hearing and closed at the end of the hearing.

## **Findings of Fact**

A review of the record supports the following findings of fact:

- 1) Your spouse was determined eligible for the Essential Plan on August 10, 2016, with an effective date of September 1, 2016.
- 2) You testified that you receive your notices from NYSOH by electronic alert.
- 3) You testified that you received the electronic alert from NYSOH during July 2017 that informed you that a renewal notice had been posted to your account. You further testified that upon reviewing the notice in your NYSOH account, you took no further action since it was unclear to you that your spouse's coverage had changed in any respect because the plan issuer, Excellus BCBS, continued to cover both you and your spouse.
- 4) You testified that you were not aware of the distinction between your spouse's Essential Plan and Medicaid coverage.

- 5) You testified that because of the change in coverage on September 1, 2017 from the Essential Plan to Medicaid, your spouse incurred medical expenses since your spouse's provider did not accept that MMC plan.
- 6) You testified that you weren't challenging the NYSOH's finding of your spouse being found eligible for Medicaid, but rather the start date of your spouse's MMC plan. You further testified that you were seeking for her Essential Plan coverage to end effective October 31, 2017, and for her MMC plan coverage to begin effective November 1, 2017.

Conflicting evidence, if any, was considered and found to be less credible than the evidence noted above.

## **Applicable Law and Regulations**

### Essential Plan Renewal

In general, NYSOH will review Essential Plan eligibility no more frequently than once every 12 months from the effective date of eligibility as long as enrollees are under age 65, not enrolled in minimum essential coverage elsewhere, remain state residents, and do not have any changes in circumstances. An individual enrolled in the Essential Plan shall have his or her coverage continued until the end of the 12-month period, provided he or she does not lose eligibility by reason of citizenship status, lack of state residence, failure to provide a valid social security number, providing inaccurate information that would affect eligibility when requesting or renewing health coverage, failure to make the applicable premium payment, or changes in circumstances (42 CFR § 600.340(a); 42 CFR § 600.320(d); NY Social Services Law § 369-gg(3) and (4)(d)); New York's Basic Health Plan Blueprint, pp. 8 and 16, as approved January 2016; see [www.medicaid.gov/basic-health-program/downloads/ny-blueprint.pdf](http://www.medicaid.gov/basic-health-program/downloads/ny-blueprint.pdf)).

NYSOH must provide an individual with the annual redetermination notice, including the projected eligibility for coverage and financial assistance, and must require the qualified individual to report any changes within 30 days (42 CFR § 600.340(e)). Once the 30-day period has lapsed, NYSOH must issue a redetermination as provided by the notice, with consideration given to any updates that may have been provided by the individual (42 CFR §600.345; (NY Social Services Law § 369-gg(4)(c); 45 CFR § 155.335(g); New York's Basic Health Plan Blueprint, p. 17, as approved January 2016; see [www.medicaid.gov/basic-health-program/downloads/ny-blueprint.pdf](http://www.medicaid.gov/basic-health-program/downloads/ny-blueprint.pdf)).

For individuals seeking enrollment in an Essential Plan, New York State has elected to follow the same rules that NYSOH uses in determining effective dates for individuals seeking enrollment in qualified health plans (NY Social Services Law § 369-gg(4)(c); New York's Basic Health Plan Blueprint, p. 16, as approved

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January 2016; see [www.medicaid.gov/basic-health-program/downloads/ny-blueprint.pdf](http://www.medicaid.gov/basic-health-program/downloads/ny-blueprint.pdf)).

The effective date of coverage by an Essential Plan is determined by the date on which an applicant selects a plan for enrollment. For individuals who are eligible for enrollment, NYSOH must generally ensure that coverage is effective the first day of the following month for selections received by NYSOH from the first to the fifteenth of any month (45 CFR §§ 155.410(f)(2), 155.420(b)(1)(i); see also 42 CFR § 600.320). For selections received by NYSOH from the sixteenth to the last day of any month, NYSOH must ensure coverage is effective the first day of the second following month (45 CFR §§ 155.410(f)(2), 155.420(b)(1)(ii)).

### Electronic Notices

Applicants may choose to receive notices and information from NYSOH either by electronic alerts or by regular mail. If the applicant elects to receive electronic notices, NYSOH must send an email or other electronic communication alerting the individual that a notice has been posted to the applicant's account (42 CFR § 600.330(e); 42 CFR § 435.918(b)(4)).

Additionally, if an electronic alert regarding a notice in an individual's NYSOH account fails, NYSOH must send out the notice by regular mail within three days of the failed alert (42 CFR § 435.918(b)(5)).

### Medicaid

An individual is eligible for fee-for-service Medicaid effective on the first day of the month if an individual was eligible any time during that month (42 CFR § 435.915(b), Medicaid Eligibility Changes under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010,13ADM-03(III)(F)).

Medicaid Managed Care plan enrollments received on or before the fifteenth day of the month are effective the first day of the following month. Enrollments received after the fifteenth day of the month are effective the first day of the second following month (Medicaid Managed Care Model Contract (Appendix H-6(b)(ii) & (iii), effective 3/1/2014 – 2/28/2019; see 42 USC § 1315; § 364-j(1)(c); 18 NYCRR § 360-10.3(h), Medicaid Eligibility Changes under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010,13ADM-03(III)(F)).

## **Legal Analysis**

The first issue under review is whether NYSOH properly determined that your spouse's eligibility for and enrollment in the Essential Plan ended effective August 31, 2017.

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Your spouse was originally found eligible for the Essential Plan effective September 1, 2016.

Generally, NYSOH will redetermine a qualified individual's eligibility for the Essential Plan once every 12 months without requiring information from the individual if able to do so based on reliable information contained in the individual's account or other more current information available to the agency. NYSOH issued a renewal and eligibility determinant notice stating that based on the available information about your household from state and federal sources as of July 1, 2017, your spouse was eligible for Medicaid, effective September 1, 2017. The notice also stated that if you believed your eligibility determination was not correct, you need to make change between July 16, 2017 and August 15, 2017 for your plan to be effective September 1, 2017.

The record reflected that no changes were made to your account by August 15, 2017. Accordingly, your spouse's Essential Plan coverage was terminated effective August 31, 2017.

However, you testified and your account confirms that you elected to receive alerts regarding notices from NYSOH electronically. You credibly testified that you received the electronic alert from NYSOH during July 2017 that informed you that a renewal notice had been posted to your account. You further testified that upon reviewing the notice in your NYSOH account, you took no further action since it was unclear to you that your spouse's coverage had changed in any respect because the plan issuer, Excellus BCBS, continued to cover both you and your spouse.

Therefore, it is concluded that NYSOH gave you the required notice that your spouse was found eligible for Medicaid effective September 1, 2017, and that your spouse's Essential Plan coverage would be ending August 31, 2017.

Accordingly, the July 17, 2017 disenrollment notice is AFFIRMED.

The second issue is whether NYSOH properly determined that your spouse's enrollment in the MMC plan was effective September 1, 2017.

The date on which a MMC plan can take effect depends on the day a person selects the plan for enrollment.

The record reflects that NYSOH took enrolled your spouse in an MMC plan on July 16, 2017 to ensure no gap in coverage occurred between her transition from the Essential Plan to Medicaid.

A plan that is selected from the first day to and including the fifteenth day of a month will go into effect on the first day of the following month. A plan that is

selected on or after the sixteenth day of the month will go into effect on the first day of the second following month.

On July 16, 2017, your spouse was enrolled in an MMC plan, so it properly took effect on the first day of the second month following July 16, 2017; that is, on September 1, 2017.

Therefore, the July 17, 2017 enrollment notice stating that your spouse's enrollment in her MMC plan would be effective September 1, 2017, was correct and must be AFFIRMED.

## **Decision**

The July 17, 2017 disenrollment notice is AFFIRMED.

The July 17, 2017 enrollment notice is AFFIRMED.

**Effective Date of this Decision:** November 29, 2017

## **How this Decision Affects Your Eligibility**

Your spouse's Essential Plan coverage ended effective August 31, 2017.

Your spouse's MMC plan coverage began effective September 1, 2017.

## **If You Disagree with this Decision (Appeal Rights)**

This Decision is final unless you submit an appeal request to the Federal Marketplace or bring a lawsuit under New York Civil Practice Law and Rules, Article 78.

You may bring a lawsuit on any Appeals Unit decision in New York State court in accordance with Article 78 of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules. This must be done within four months of the Decision Date, which appears on the first page of this Decision.

Additionally, Appeals Unit decisions on issues involving eligibility for qualified health plans, advance premium tax credits, and cost-sharing reductions may be appealed to the Federal Marketplace. This must be done within 30 days of the Decision Date, which appears on the first page of this Decision (45 CFR § 155.520(c)).

If you need this information in a language other than English or you need assistance reading this notice, we can help you. Call 1-855-355-5777 (TTY - English: 1-800-662-1220) (TTY – Spanish: 1-877-662-4886).



If you have questions about appealing to the Federal Marketplace, you can contact them in any of the following ways:

- By calling the Customer Service Center at 1-800-318-2596
- By mail at:  
Health Insurance Marketplace  
Attn: Appeals  
465 Industrial Blvd.  
London, KY 40750-0061
- By fax: 1-877-369-0129

If you wish to be represented by an attorney in bringing an outside appeal and do not know how to go about getting one, you may contact legal resources available to you. You may, for example, contact the local County Bar Association, Legal Aid, or Legal Services.

### **If You Have Questions about this Decision (Customer Service Resources):**

You can contact us in any of the following ways:

- By calling the Customer Service Center at 1-855-355-5777
- By mail at:  
NY State of Health Appeals  
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Albany, NY 12211
- By fax: 1-855-900-5557

### **Summary**

The July 17, 2017 disenrollment and enrollment notices are AFFIRMED.

Your spouse's Essential Plan coverage ended effective August 31, 2017.

Your spouse's MMC plan coverage began effective September 1, 2017.

### **Legal Authority**

We are issuing this determination in accordance with 45 CFR § 155.545.

If you need this information in a language other than English or you need assistance reading this notice, we can help you. Call 1-855-355-5777 (TTY - English: 1-800-662-1220) (TTY – Spanish: 1-877-662-4886).

**A Copy of this Decision Has Been Provided To:**



## Getting Help in a Language Other than English

This is an important document. If you need help to understand it, please call 1-855-355-5777. We can give you an interpreter for free in the language you speak.

### Español (Spanish)

Este es un documento importante. Si necesita ayuda para entenderlo, llame al 1-855-355-5777. Le proporcionaremos un intérprete sin ningún costo.

### 中文 (Traditional Chinese)

這是重要的文件。如果您需要獲得關於瞭解文件內容方面的協助，請致電 1-855-355-5777。我們可以為您免費提供您所使用語言的翻譯人員。

### Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole)

Sa a se yon dokiman ki enpòtan. Si ou bezwen èd pou konprann li, tanpri rele nimewo 1-855-355-5777. Nou kapab ba ou yon entèprèt gratis nan lang ou pale a.

### 中文 (Simplified Chinese)

这是一份重要的文件。如果您需要帮助理解此文件，请打电话至 1-855-355-5777。我们可以为您提供相应语种的口译服务。

### Italiano (Italian)

Questo è un documento importante. Per qualsiasi chiarimento può chiamare il numero 1-855-355-5777. Possiamo metterle a disposizione un interprete nella sua lingua.

### 한국어 (Korean)

중요한 서류입니다. 이해하는 데 도움이 필요하시면 1-855-355-5777 번으로 연락해 주십시오. 귀하의 언어에 대한 무료 통역 서비스가 제공됩니다.

### Русский (Russian)

Это важный документ. Если Вам нужна помощь для понимания этого документа, позвоните по телефону 1-855-355-5777. Мы можем бесплатно предоставить Вам переводчика Вашего языка.

### العربية (Arabic)

هذه وثيقة مهمة. إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مساعدة لفهم محتواها، يُرجى الاتصال بالرقم 1-855-355-5777. يُمكننا توفير مترجم فوري لك باللغة التي تتحدثها مجاناً.

### বাংলা (Bengali)

এটি এক গুরুত্বপূর্ণ নথি। এটি বুঝতে আপনার যদি সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয় তাহলে, অনুগ্রহ করে 1-855-355-5777 নম্বরে কল করুন। আপনি যে ভাষায় কথা বলেন বিনামূল্যে আমরা আপনাকে একজন দোভাষী দিতে পারি।

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## **Français (French)**

Ceci est un document important. Si vous avez besoin d'aide pour en comprendre le contenu, appelez le 1-855-355-5777. Nous pouvons mettre gratuitement à votre disposition un interprète dans votre langue.

## **हिंदी (Hindi)**

यह एक महत्वपूर्ण दस्तावेज़ है। अगर आपको इसे समझने में सहायता चाहिए, तो कृपया 1-855-355-5777 पर कॉल करें। हम आपकी भाषा बोलने वाला एक दुभाषिया निःशुल्क उपलब्ध करवा सकते हैं।

## **日本語 (Japanese)**

これは重要な書類です。理解するために支援が必要な場合は、1-855-355-5777 にお電話ください。通訳を無料で提供いたします。

## **नेपाली (Nepali)**

यो एउटा महत्वपूर्ण कागजात हो। यसलाई बुझ्न तपाईंलाई मद्दत चाहिन्छ भने, कृपया 1-855-355-5777 मा फोन गर्नुहोस्। हामीले तपाईंले बोल्ने भाषामा तपाईंलाई निःशुल्क दोभाषे उपलब्ध गराउन सक्छौं।

## **Polski (Polish)**

To jest ważny dokument. W przypadku konieczności skorzystania z pomocy w celu zrozumienia jego treści należy zadzwonić pod numer 1-855-355-5777. Istnieje możliwość uzyskania bezpłatnej usługi tłumacza języka, którym się posługujesz.

## **Twi (Twi)**

Krataa yi ye tow krataa a ho hia. Se wo hia eho nkyerekyeremu a, ye sre wo, fre 1-855-355-5777. ye&btumi ama wo obi a okyerε kasa a woka no ase ama wo kwa a wontua hwee.

## **(Urdu) اردو**

یہ ایک اہم دستاویز ہے۔ اگر آپ کو اسے سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو براہ کرم 1-855-355-5777 پر کال کریں۔ ہم آپ کو آپ کی مادری زبان میں ایک مفت مترجم فراہم کر سکتے ہیں۔

## **Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)**

Đây là tài liệu quan trọng. Nếu quý vị cần trợ giúp để hiểu tài liệu này, vui lòng gọi 1-855-355-5777. Chúng tôi có thể cung cấp thông dịch viên miễn phí nói ngôn ngữ của quý vị.

## **אידיש (Yiddish)**

דאס איז א וויכטיגער דאקומענט. אויב איר דארפט הילף עס צו פארשטיין, ביטע רופט 1-855-355-5777. מיר קענען אייך געבן א דאלמעטשער פריי פון אפצאל אין די שפראך וואס איר רעדט.

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