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East End Health Plan offers Medicare Advantage option

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Effective January 1, 2020, East End Health Plan retirees who are eligible for Medicare Parts A and B will be enrolled in an Empire MediBlue Freedom (PPO) plan with Empire BlueCross BlueShield (Empire).

The plan includes the National Access Plus benefit, which offers retirees the freedom of receiving services from any provider as long as the provider is eligible to receive payments from Medicare. East End Health Plan retirees will receive both in-network and out-of-network covered services. The Medicare Advantage plan offers the same hospital and medical benefits that original Medicare covers and additional benefits that original Medicare does not, such as an annual routine physical exam, LiveHealth Online and SilverSneakers.

The prefix on East End Health Plan ID cards will be XLU. The cards will also show the East End Health Plan logo and National Access Plus icon.

Claims should not be filed with original Medicare. Providers can submit claims electronically using the electronic payer ID for Empire or submit a *UB-04* or *CMS-1500* form to Empire.

Detailed prior authorization requirements also are available to contracted providers by accessing the Provider Self-Service Tool at <https://www.availity.com>.

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