

The Latest from the NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust

Welcome to the NY44 News Brief for October 2021:

Fiscal Update as of September 2021

Fiscal Activity

Revenue and Disbursements – This view is of the full book of business for the Trust and the accounts are now organized in the same manner as the annual audited financial statements. The three columns are revenue and disbursements recorded monthly, running fiscal to date total, and the year end of the previous year for comparison. Line-item other expenses include operational expenses, insurance bond liability, secure email services, bank lockbox, etc. Throughout the fiscal year several months have five funding obligations to the carriers (Independent Health and MVP Healthcare).

Revenue & Disbursements	Time Period 09/01/2021	Year to Date 7/1/2021 - 09/30/2021	Unaudited Financial Statement Ending 6/30/2021 (Year before)
Revenues			
Participants' Premium Contributions	\$ 9,435,246	\$ 28,211,774	\$ 120,301,267
Participants' Assessments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RDS-Drug Subsidy	\$ 342,416	\$ 342,416.36	\$ 396,096
Interest Income	\$ 55,684	\$ 106,123	\$ 216,800
Trust Administrative Fee	\$ 69,973	\$ 209,743	\$ 830,640
Realized Chg in Investments	\$ -	\$ (146,595)	\$ (115,855.80)
Pharmacy Rebates	\$ -	\$ 1,671,110	\$ 5,503,923
Other Income- Stop Loss Reimbursement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 281,726
Med Reimburse claims by TPA internal audi	\$ 147,594	\$ 163,598	\$ 604,475
	\$ -		
Total Revenues	\$ 10,050,914	\$ 30,558,170	\$ 128,019,071
Disbursements			
Medical, Rx, and Dental Claim Payments	\$ 9,223,076	\$ 28,869,887	\$ 115,191,470
Claim Administrative fees-TPA	\$ 335,627	\$ 890,291	\$ 2,710,817
Salaries Payroll Taxes	\$ 48,032	\$ 75,809	\$ 263,988
Legal and Consulting	\$ 62,418	\$ 184,678	\$ 835,313
Insurance	\$ 54,524	\$ 224,380	\$ 671,251
PCORI	\$ -	\$ 38,418	\$ 46,569
Other	\$ 28,152	\$ 77,455	\$ 56,084
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 9,751,829	\$ 30,360,918	\$ 119,775,493
Net Revenues - Disbursements	\$ 299,085	\$ 197,252	\$ 8,243,578
NET ASSETS, at beginning of Year		\$ 46,298,300	\$ 46,298,300
NET ASSETS, at YTD and end of year		\$ 46,495,552	\$ 54,541,878

Dental Plan: July 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021

To increase value and contain cost for enrollees the dental plan changed administrators effective January 1, 2021. The figures reported for dental encompass July – September 2021. Historically August and September have been months of high dental claims usage due to dependents going back to school. We see fluctuations again during recess months such as January and March/April, depending on the Spring break.



More information on dental benefits and newly added features can be found on the www.ny44.e1b.org website.

Dental Revenue: \$336,363.50
Dental Expenses: ~~-\$352,236.89~~
Dental Net Income \$(15,873.39)

Benefit Specialist's Message

Enrollees should remember to give their pharmacy their new Capital Rx Identification Card so that they can update their system. If an employee has tried to get a prescription filled using their Independent Health ID card it will be denied. It is important that enrollees ensure that their Pharmacy has their correct information to avoid a delay in receiving medication or being charged an incorrect amount.



One more thing to note- Flu shots are covered by Capital Rx. Enrollees will need to ensure that their pharmacy has their correct and updated ID information. The copay should be \$0 if they go to an eligible participating provider. If there are any problems, please have the enrollee give their Pharmacy the Capital Rx number which is located on the back of their ID card.

Please call or email Stacey Porter at (716) 821-7073 or sporter@e1b.org if you need assistance with benefit concerns or questions.

Bswift Reminder

As a reminder, it is important that all enrollee and dependent demographic information (including email addresses) is kept up to date in the bswift system as the Third-Party Administrators (Independent Health, MVP Healthcare, Capital Rx, etc.), government entities and the NY44 Trust rely on this information to communicate with members when necessary.



Please call Lora Schasel at (716) 821-7161 if you need assistance with billing or bswift concerns or questions. lschasel@e1b.org

Prescription Drug Plan Update – Capital Rx & Payer Matrix

As we approach the end of the first 120 days following the transition to Capital Rx and Payer Matrix, we continue to work on additional communication to participating schools and their members regarding the NY44 Trust Prescription Drug plan. Please continue to watch for emails from your participating school and your home mailbox.

Formulary Disruption, Prior Authorization and Exclusion Letters Coming Soon!

As we mentioned before and during the transition, as well as in other Rx communication updates, there are some members impacted by the formulary/preferred drug list differences between PBD (prior administrator) and Capital Rx. Additionally, there are drugs which require prior authorization or are considered excluded under the Capital Rx plan. The preferred drug list differences, prior authorization and exclusions were not applied as the coverage was transitioned on July 1, 2021. During the first 90 days, the NY44 Trust and Oswald worked with Capital Rx to apply a “Continuation of Therapy or CoT” to those impacted members. In other words, Capital Rx was processing claims with the same copay for those who are taking a medication which are not on the Capital Rx preferred drug list, excluded or require a prior authorization that may not have applied under the prior PBD administrator. *The Continuation of Therapy exceptions are set to expire on **November 30, 2021.***

It is very important that members pay attention to their home mail to look for a letter from Capital Rx. There are three different letters that will be sent by Capital Rx to impacted members which identify the following:

- *Prior Authorization* – If your current prescription requires Prior Authorization (this not apply to those who received a PA under the prior plan)
- *Prescription Drug Tier Change* – If you are currently taking a prescription drug that is at a higher costing tier under Capital Rx
- *Prescription Drug Preferred Alternative* – If you are currently taking a medication that is NOT on the Capital Rx formulary and alternative prescription drug options to be discussed with your doctor

Members WILL need to act. Some members may receive multiple letters depending on their current medication. If the member does not act on the instructions in the letter, he/she may be faced with additional out of pocket costs **after November 30, 2021**. The Capital Rx letters will provide explanation on what to do. If members have any questions, we recommend they reach out to Capital Rx for further assistance at 833-772-2779. From the phone prompt select the “member” option, then select “0” to be connected with a Capital Rx customer care representative.

Please remember, the goal of the NY44 Health Trust Plan is to be as transparent as possible and provide the participating schools and their members with information and tools to receive the highest possible benefits available.

For more information on the NY44 Prescription Drug Plan or access to communication materials, visit www.ny44.e1b.org/capitalrx or contact your Benefit Administrator. Any specific member questions should be directed to Capital Rx via the dedicated 24/7 customer service line at 833-772-2779.

Subcommittee Reports

Finance Subcommittee

Utilization performance through August 2021.

Most Recent	1 Month	3 Months	12 Months	2 Month(s)
	August 2021	June 2021 - August 2021	September 2020 - August 2021	July 2021 - August 2021

Month	Quarter	Year	Fiscal Year
Per Employee Per Month: \$1,935 August 2021	Average Per Employee Per Month: \$1,733 June 2021 - August 2021	Average Per Employee Per Month: \$1,603 September 2020 - August 2021	Average Per Employee Per Month: \$1,710 July 2021 - August 2021

The first two months of the 2021 fiscal year is averaging \$1,710 Per Enrolled Per Month (PEPM), up 6.6% compared to the annual total of \$1,603. The most recent month of August: \$1,935 is 20.7% higher than the fiscal average. This significant increase, by comparison, is directly related to large claimant activity. The installation of the new Rx carrier/vendor relationships had help reduce August 2021's PEPM. August of 2020, the PEPM was \$2,037.

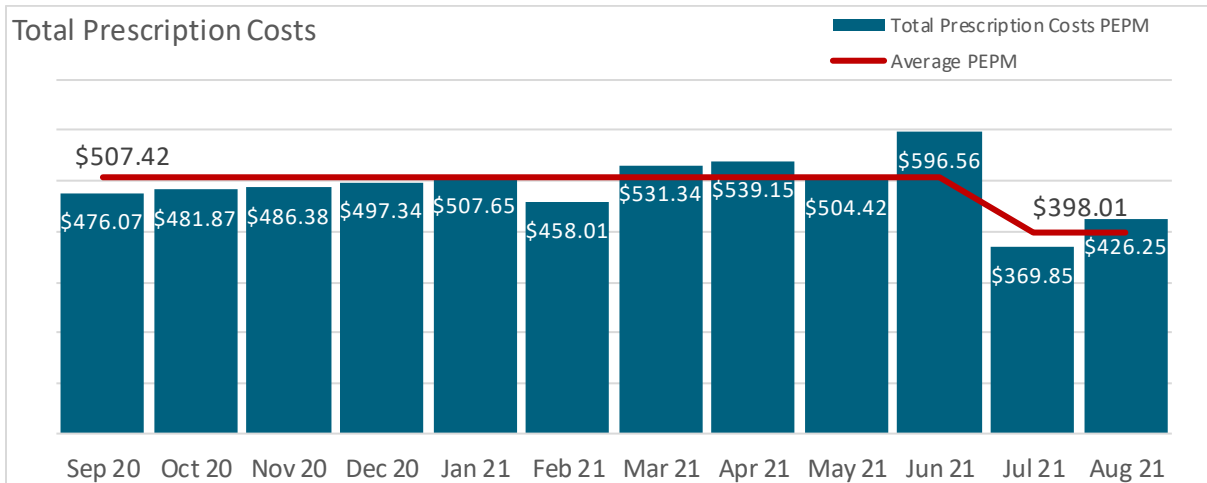
Without the new Rx arrangement, this year's PEPM would have been similar to last year, with \$2,034.

Total Costs include all Medical and Rx related charges, specifically: Claims, Stop-loss Premiums, Third-Party Administration Fees, Rebates, and Taxes.

This chart shows the financial impact with the new Capital Rx and Payor Matrix agreements, this includes claims, plus any and all differences in fees (before rebates) associated with the prescription for the past 12 months:

- Prior PEPM was \$507.42
- After PEPM is \$398.01 (2% drop).

Rebates are still part of the agreement but not included because this calculation as it has not been in place long enough to generate a rebate. We will continue to monitor claims as they develop and mature throughout the year, but this is a favorable outcome help control costs.



Benefits Subcommittee

The Subcommittee held meetings on 9/23/21 and 10/20/21. Items of interest included:

- The Subcommittee continues to monitor Rx transition and formulary changes as well as the effect on members
- The Board of Trustees approved the Subcommittee’s recommendation for limits on Chiropractic care. Beginning 1.1.2022, a limit of 36 visits per calendar year will be applied to chiropractic visits under the Traditional Plan option.

The Subcommittee’s November meeting will be an Open Forum and will focus on the topic of chiropractic care.

Communication Subcommittee

We held our Communications Subcommittee Open Forum in early October and presented the following items:

- The various communication materials completed within the first half of 2021
- We are in the process of evaluating tools and techniques to enhance direct communication to Trust members

What’s next?

- Quarterly member mailings
 - Topics include Medicare, Plan updates/changes, Open Enrollment, benefit election Reminders, and health and wellness.
- Year-end newsletter in November

Innovation Subcommittee

The Innovation Subcommittee has continued their work on exploring the cost transparency tools. We are currently in the process of conducting a complete cost analysis before presenting to the Board of Trustees. Upon completed of the cost analysis the information will be submitted to the Trustees for consideration. The subcommittee will hold a regular monthly meeting in November.

Population Health Subcommittee

Our Population Health Subcommittee had our monthly meeting in late September where we discussed an incentive/ engagement strategy for Trust schools to encourage participation at our open forums, board meetings and other important meetings where valuable information is being shared. We are continuing the discussion on different and better ways to communicate to ensure everyone has the same opportunity to receive important Trust information.

As a reminder the wellness information is part of the Trust's Monthly News Brief. Articles included information about flu season, tips for getting better sleep and our monthly comprehensive wellness newsletter. SparkUNPLUG is always available on demand and is an excellent mindfulness, stress reduction and gratitude resource to share with your staff: [SparkUNPLUG](#).

Monthly Wellness Newsletter

OCTOBER WELLNESS NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Flu Season is Here!

The best way to protect yourself and your loved ones against influenza (flu) is to get a flu vaccine every season. The CDC recommends everyone six months and older get an annual vaccine. Find more information about the flu and vaccine here: [here](#).



9 Expert Tips for Getting More (and Better) Sleep

You demand a lot of your body and mind during the day. Did you know that some of your most important activities happen when you're asleep? Take a look at [this article](#) to learn more.

Smart Health Newsletter

The October newsletter contains articles related to completing a wellness checklist, reducing your breast cancer risk, and one dish meal tips! Check them out [here](#).



Other Sharing Points:

- Each month our team works together to provide relevant updates regarding the NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust. The *News Brief* is one of the communication mechanisms used. There are also Subcommittees, which hold Open Forums to keep you updated. The calendar of upcoming Open Forums can be found [here](#). We hope you'll be able to join each of the Subcommittee Open Forums so that you can become actively engaged and learn more about the following topics: benefits, population health, communication, finances, and innovations. The Open Forums are in a format that allows open discussion. Please join us!
- Creditable Coverage Letters for Medicare Part D were mailed the week of September 20, 2021.

- If your school is interested in Guardian Dental, please contact Steve Baltas at SBaltas@oswaldcompanies.com
- Check the www.ny44.e1b.org website for updates.
- Benefits and HR Department: Is bswift up to date with the most current email addresses for your enrollees?
- Upcoming Board Meeting on November 18, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.

Best Regards,

Alice B. Riley, Manager of Finance and Enrollment
NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust
NY44.e1b.org



Thoughts, comments, feedback? We can be reached at NY44@OswaldCompanies.com

NY44 COMMUNICATIONS FLOW CHART

We understand the importance of relevant information being circulated to the appropriate groups at your schools. With our newly crafted [Communications Flow Chart](#), we feel this is a proactive solution to help alleviate any issues receiving the intended communication material.

You are receiving the News Brief as an individual who has been identified by your school district as a contact person, either as the Superintendent, Business Official, Union President, or Benefit Administrator.

Periodically email communication will be sent out from the NY44 Trust or from our consultants at Oswald Companies. The communications may include surveys, updates, Board/Annual meetings, or Subcommittee summaries of open forum meetings. We ask that at the district level a process to coordinate the delivery of information to your enrollees is implemented on the best practices you have already developed. Some successful areas used in the past are the internal staff intranet or emailing directly to the enrollee from HR-Benefits, Union Presidents, or depending on the message a mass email to all active and retired employees. The school has available the most current email addresses. We have found that the bswift enrollment system is missing or has not been updated with the current contact information. There will be other communication that will be sent from or on behalf of the NY44 Trust to the enrollees too, such as postcards and newsletters.

The NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust is a self-funded plan working in partnership with the school districts. As we continue to have the Committee Open forums, we appreciate your participation and ask that you join us. Thank you.