

NYSHIP Now Recognizes Same-Sex Marriage for Spousal Benefits Eligibility

Effective May 1, 2007, the New York State Department of Civil Service policy was revised to recognize any same-sex marriage that is legal in the jurisdiction where it was performed for the purposes of extending spousal benefits eligibility in the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP), and for all other benefit programs administered by the Department's Employee Benefits Division. These programs include the New York State Vision Program administered by EyeMed, the New York State Dental Insurance Program administered by GHI.

After May 1, 2007, the Department of Civil Service will recognize a same-sex marriage for the purpose of spousal benefits eligibility from the following jurisdictions: Massachusetts, Canada, including all its provinces, Spain, South Africa, the Netherlands, and Belgium. Civil unions will continue to be acceptable as part of proof requirements for domestic partner coverage.