

Important Notices from Warren County regarding the Group Health Plan

The following notices provide important information about the group health plan provided by your employer. Please read the attached notices carefully and keep a copy for your records.

If you have any questions regarding any of these notices, please contact:

General Contact

Name	Lene' Moore
Phone	515-961-1031
Email	lenem@warrencountyia.org
Mailing Address	301 North Buxton Suite 202, Indianola, IA 50125

Plan Administrator

Name	Lene' Moore
Phone	515-961-1031
Email	lenem@warrencountyia.org
Mailing Address	301 North Buxton Suite 202, Indianola, IA 50125

Privacy Officer *(if applicable)*

Name	Human Resources
Phone	515-961-1031
Email	lenem@warrencountyia.org
Mailing Address	301 North Buxton Suite 202, Indianola, IA 50125

Distribution Date: November 2023

If applicable:

These notices are available online at your companies benefit website or via paper, free of charge, upon request to the Plan Administrator.

Please note this is not a legal document and should not be construed as legal advice.

Medicare Creditable Coverage Letter

Please note this is not a legal document and should not be construed as legal advice.

Important Notice from Your Current Coverage About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether or not you want to join a Medicare drug plan. If you are considering joining, you should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered at what cost, with the coverage and costs of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.

There are two important things you need to know about your current coverage and Medicare's prescription drug coverage:

1. Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or join a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO) that offers prescription drug coverage. All Medicare drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.
2. We have determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the plan is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage. Because your existing coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.

When Can You Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

You can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15 to December 7.

However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two-month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan.

What Happens to Your Current Coverage If You Decide to Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your current coverage will not be affected. Contact your plan administrator for an explanation of the prescription drug coverage plan provisions/options under the plan that Medicare eligible individuals have available to them when you become eligible for Medicare Part D. See the CMS Disclosure of Creditable Coverage To Medicare Part D Eligible Individuals Guidance (available at <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/prescription-drug-coverage/creditablecoverage>), which outlines the prescription drug plan provisions/options that Medicare eligible individuals may have available to them when they become eligible for Medicare Part D.]

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will not be able to get this coverage back.

When Will You Pay a Higher Premium (Penalty) To Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

You should also know that if you drop or lose your current coverage and don't join a Medicare drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan later.

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the Medicare base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without creditable coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

For More Information About This Notice or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage

Contact your Human Resources for further information. NOTE: You'll get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this coverage through your current coverage changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

For More Information About Your Options Under Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is in the "Medicare & You" handbook. You'll get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare drug plans.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

- Visit www.medicare.gov
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of your copy of the "Medicare & You" handbook for their telephone number) for personalized help
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at [ssa.gov](https://www.ssa.gov), or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Remember: Keep this Creditable Coverage notice. If you decide to join one of the Medicare drug plans, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show whether or not you have maintained creditable coverage and, therefore, whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).

Medicare Non-Creditable Coverage Letter

Please note this is not a legal document and should not be construed as legal advice

Important Notice About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether or not you want to join a Medicare drug plan. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.

There are three important things you need to know about your current coverage and Medicare's prescription drug coverage:

1. Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or join a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO) that offers prescription drug coverage. All Medicare drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.
2. We have determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the you have selected in is, on average for all plan participants, NOT expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays. Therefore, your coverage is considered Non-Creditable Coverage. This is important because, most likely, you will get more help with your drug costs if you join a Medicare drug plan, than if you only have prescription drug coverage from your current plan. **This also is important because it may mean that you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you do not join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible.**
3. You can keep your current coverage. However, because your coverage is non-creditable, you have decisions to make about Medicare prescription drug coverage that may affect how much you pay for that coverage, depending on if and when you join a drug plan. When you make your decision, you

should compare your current coverage, including what drugs are covered, with the coverage and cost of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. Read this notice carefully - it explains your options.

When Can You Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

You can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15 to December 7.

When Will You Pay a Higher Premium (Penalty) To Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

Since the coverage under current plan, is not creditable, depending on how long you go without creditable prescription drug coverage you may pay a penalty to join a Medicare drug plan. Starting with the end of the last month that you were first eligible to join a Medicare drug plan but didn't join, if you go 63 continuous days or longer without prescription drug coverage that's creditable, your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the Medicare base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without creditable coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

What Happens to Your Current Coverage If You Decide to Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your current coverage will be affected. Contact your plan administrator for an explanation of the prescription drug coverage plan provisions/options under the particular entity's plan that Medicare eligible individuals have available to them when you become eligible for Medicare Part D. [See the CMS Disclosure of Creditable Coverage To Medicare Part D Eligible Individuals Guidance (available at <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/prescription-drug-coverage/creditablecoverage>), which outlines the prescription drug plan provisions/options that Medicare eligible individuals may have available to them when they become eligible for Medicare Part D.]

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current coverage, be aware that you and your dependents may be able to get this coverage back.

For More Information About This Notice or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage

Contact your Human Resource director for further information. *Note:* You'll get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan and if this coverage through current changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

For More Information About Your Options Under Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

- Visit www.medicare.gov
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of your copy of the “Medicare & You” handbook for their telephone number) for personalized help
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at ssa.gov, or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Remember: Keep this Creditable Coverage notice. If you decide to join one of the Medicare drug plans, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show whether or not you have maintained creditable coverage and, therefore, whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).

Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act Notice

Do you know that your plan, as required by the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA), provides benefits for mastectomy-related services including all stages of reconstruction and surgery to achieve symmetry between the breasts, prostheses, and complications resulting from a mastectomy, including lymphedema? Call your plan administrator for more information.

If you have had or are going to have a mastectomy, you may be entitled to certain benefits under the WHCRA. For individuals receiving mastectomy-related benefits, coverage will be provided in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient, for:

- All stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy was performed
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance
- Prostheses
- Treatment of physical complications of the mastectomy, including lymphedema

These benefits will be provided subject to the same deductibles and coinsurance applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under this plan. Therefore, the following deductibles and coinsurance apply: for your group health plan. If you would like more information on WHCRA benefits, call your plan administrator.

Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act

Group health plans and health insurance issuers generally may not, under Federal law, restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, Federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under Federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the insurance issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

Premium Assistance Under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

If you or your children are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP and you're eligible for health coverage from your employer, your state may have a premium assistance program that can help pay for coverage, using funds from their Medicaid or CHIP programs. If you or your children aren't eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, you won't be eligible for these premium assistance programs, but you may be able to buy individual insurance coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace. For more information, visit www.healthcare.gov.

If you or your dependents are already enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP and you live in a state listed below, contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office to find out if premium assistance is available.

If you or your dependents are NOT currently enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, and you think you or any of your dependents might be eligible for either of these programs, contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office or dial 1-877-KIDS NOW or www.insurekidsnow.gov to find out how to apply. If you qualify, ask your state if it has a program that might help you pay the premiums for an employer-sponsored plan.

If you or your dependents are eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or CHIP, as well as eligible under your employer plan, your employer must allow you to enroll in your employer plan if you aren't already enrolled. This is called a "special enrollment" opportunity, and **you must request coverage within 60 days of being determined eligible for premium assistance**. If you have questions about enrolling in your employer plan, contact the Department of Labor at www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa/about-ebsa/ask-a-question/ask-ebsa or call 1-866-444-EBSA (3272).

If you live in one of the following states, you may be eligible for assistance paying your employer health plan premiums. The following list of states is current as of July 31, 2023. Contact your state for more information on eligibility.

ALABAMA – Medicaid

Website: <http://myalhipp.com>

Phone: 855-692-5447

ALASKA – Medicaid

The Alaska Health Insurance Premium Payment Program

Website: <http://myakhipp.com>

Phone: 866-251-4861

Email: CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com

Medicaid Eligibility:

<https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/default.aspx>

ARKANSAS – Medicaid

Website: <http://myarhipp.com>

Phone: 1-855-MyARHIPP (855-692-7447)

CALIFORNIA – Medicaid

Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP)

Program website: <http://dhcs.ca.gov/hipp>

Phone: 916-445-8322

Fax: 916-440-5676

Email: hipp@dhcs.ca.gov

COLORADO – Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) & Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+)

Health First Colorado Website:

<https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/>

Health First Colorado Member Contact Center:
800-221-3943/State Relay 711

CHP+: <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/child-health-plan-plus>

CHP+ Customer Service: 800-359-1991/State
Relay 711

Health Insurance Buy-In Program (HIBI):

<https://www.mycohibi.com/>

HIBI Customer Service: 855-692-64422

FLORIDA – Medicaid

Website:

<https://www.flmedicaidtprecovery.com/flmedicaidtprecovery.com/hipp/index.html>

Phone: 877-357-3268

GEORGIA – Medicaid

GA HIPP Website:

<https://medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp>

Phone: 678-564-1162, Press 1

GA CHIPRA Website:

<https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/childrens-health-insurance-program-reauthorization-act-2009-chipra>

Phone: 678-564-1162, Press 2

INDIANA – Medicaid

Healthy Indiana Plan for low-income adults 19-64

Website: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/hip>

Phone: 877-438-4479

All other Medicaid

Website: <https://www.in.gov/medicaid>

Phone 800-457-4584

IOWA – Medicaid and CHIP (Hawki)

Medicaid Website:

<https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members>

Medicaid Phone: 800-338-8366

Hawki Website: <http://dhs.iowa.gov/Hawki>

Hawki Phone: 800-257-8563

HIPP Website:

<https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/medicaid-a-to-z/hipp>

HIPP Phone: 888-346-9562

KANSAS – Medicaid

Website: <https://www.kancare.ks.gov>

Phone: 800-792-4884

HIPP Phone: 800-967-4660

KENTUCKY – Medicaid

Kentucky Integrated Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (KI-HIPP) Website: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.aspx>
Phone: 855-459-6328
Email: KIHIPPPROGRAM@ky.gov
KCHIP Website: <https://kidshealth.ky.gov>
Phone: 877-524-4718
Kentucky Medicaid Website: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms>

LOUISIANA – Medicaid

Website: <https://ldh.la.gov/subhome/1> or <http://www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp>
Phone: 888-342-6207 (Medicaid hotline) or 855-618-5488 (LaHIPP)

MAINE – Medicaid

Enrollment Website: https://www.mymaineconnection.gov/benefits/s/?language=en_US
Phone: 800-442-6003
TTY: Maine relay 711
Private Health Insurance Premium Webpage: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms>
Phone: 800-977-6740
TTY: Maine relay 711

MASSACHUSETTS – Medicaid and CHIP

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/masshealth/pa>
Phone: 800-862-4840
TTY: 771
Email: masspremassistance@accenture.com

MINNESOTA – Medicaid

Website: <https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/children-and-families/health-care/health-care-programs/programs-and-services/other-insurance.jsp>
Phone: 800-657-3739

MISSOURI – Medicaid

Website: <http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm>
Phone: 573-751-2005

MONTANA – Medicaid

Website: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP>
Phone: 800-694-3084
Email: HSHIPPPProgram@mt.gov

NEBRASKA – Medicaid

Website: <http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov>
Phone: 855-632-7633
Lincoln: 402-473-7000
Omaha: 402-595-1178

NEVADA – Medicaid

Medicaid Website: <http://dhcftp.nv.gov>
Medicaid Phone: 800-992-0900

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Medicaid

Website: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program>
Phone: 603-271-5218
Toll free number for the HIPP program: 800-852-3345, ext. 5218

NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP

Medicaid Website: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid>
Medicaid Phone: 609-631-2392
CHIP Website: <http://www.njfamilycare.org>
CHIP Phone: 800-701-0710

NEW YORK – Medicaid

Website: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid
Phone: 800-541-2831

NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid

Website: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov>

Phone: 919-855-4100

NORTH DAKOTA – Medicaid

Website: <https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare>

Phone: 844-854-4825

OKLAHOMA – Medicaid and CHIP

Website: <http://www.insureoklahoma.org>

Phone: 888-365-3742

OREGON – Medicaid

Website: <http://healthcare.oregon.gov>

Phone: 800-699-9075

PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid and CHIP

Website:

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/HIPP-Program.aspx>

Phone: 800-692-7462

CHIP Website:

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/CHIP/Pages/CHIP.aspx>

CHIP Phone: 800-986-KIDS (5437)

RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid and CHIP

Website: <https://eohhs.ri.gov/>

Phone: 855-697-4347, or 401-462-0311

(Direct RItE Share Line)

SOUTH CAROLINA – Medicaid

Website: <https://www.scdhhs.gov>

Phone: 888-549-0820

SOUTH DAKOTA – Medicaid

Website: <https://dss.sd.gov/medicaid/default.aspx>

Phone: 888-828-0059

TEXAS – Medicaid

Website:

<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/financial/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-program>

Phone: 800-440-0493

UTAH – Medicaid and CHIP

Medicaid Website: <https://medicaid.utah.gov>

CHIP Website: <https://chip.health.utah.gov>

Phone: 877-543-7669

VERMONT – Medicaid

Website:

<https://dvha.vermont.gov/members/medicaid/hipp-program>

Phone: 800-250-8427

VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP

Website:

<https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/famis-select>

<https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-programs>

Medicaid/CHIP Phone: 800-432-5924

WASHINGTON – Medicaid

Website: <https://www.hca.wa.gov>

Phone: 800-562-3022

WEST VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP

Website: <https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms>

<http://mywvhipp.com>

Medicaid Phone: 304-558-1700

CHIP Toll-free phone: 855-MyWVHIPP
(855-699-8447)

WISCONSIN – Medicaid and CHIP

Website:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm>

Phone: 800-362-3002

WYOMING – Medicaid

Website:

<https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/programs-and-eligibility>

Phone: 800-251-1269

To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since July 31, 2023, or for more information on special enrollment rights, contact either:

U.S. Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration
www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa
1-866-444-EBSA (3272)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
<https://www.cms.gov>
1-877-267-2323, Menu Option 4, Ext. 61565

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) (PRA), no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The Department notes that a federal agency cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it is approved by OMB under the PRA, and displays a currently valid OMB control number, and the public is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3507. Also, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if the collection of information does not display a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3512.

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average approximately seven minutes per respondent. Interested parties are encouraged to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Office of Policy and Research, Attention: PRA Clearance Officer, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room N-5718, Washington, DC 20210 or email ebsa.opr@dol.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1210-0137.

OMB Control Number 1210-0137 (expires 1/31/2026)

Wellness Program – Notice of Reasonable Alternatives

Your health plan is committed to helping you achieve your best health. Rewards for participating in a wellness program are available to all employees. If you think you might be unable to meet a standard for a reward under this wellness program, you might qualify for an opportunity to earn the same reward by different means. Contact us at Plan Administrator and we will work with you (and, if you wish, with your doctor) to find a wellness program with the same reward that is right for you in light of your health status.

Notice Regarding Wellness Program

Wellness Program is a voluntary wellness program available to all employees. The program is administered according to federal rules permitting employer-sponsored wellness programs that seek to improve employee health or prevent disease, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, as applicable, among others. If you choose to participate in the wellness program you will be asked to complete a voluntary health risk assessment or "HRA" that asks a series of questions about your health-related activities and behaviors and whether you have or had certain medical conditions (e.g., cancer, diabetes, or heart disease). You will also be asked to complete a biometric screening, which will include a blood test. You are not required to complete the HRA or to participate in the blood test or other medical examinations.

However, employees who choose to participate in the wellness program will receive an incentive. Although you are not required to complete the HRA or participate in the biometric screening, only employees who do so will receive the incentive.

Additional incentives of up to may be available for employees who participate in certain health-related activities or achieve certain health outcomes. If you are unable to participate in any of the health-related activities or achieve any of the health outcomes required to earn an incentive, you may be entitled to a reasonable accommodation or an alternative standard. You may request a reasonable accommodation or an alternative standard by contacting your plan administrator/

The information from your HRA and the results from your biometric screening will be used to provide you with information to help you understand your current health and potential risks, and may also be used to offer you services through the wellness program. You also are encouraged to share your results or concerns with your own doctor.

Protections from Disclosure of Medical Information

We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your personally identifiable health information. Although the wellness program and your employer may use aggregate information it collects to design a program based on identified health risks in the workplace, Wellness Program will never disclose any of your personal information either publicly or to the employer, except as necessary to respond to a request from you for a reasonable accommodation needed to participate in the wellness program, or as expressly permitted by law. Medical information that personally identifies you that is provided in connection with the wellness program will not be provided to your supervisors or managers and may never be used to make decisions regarding your employment.

Your health information will not be sold, exchanged, transferred, or otherwise disclosed except to the extent permitted by law to carry out specific activities related to the wellness program, and you will not be asked or required to waive the confidentiality of your health information as a condition of participating in the wellness program or receiving an incentive. Anyone who receives your information for purposes of providing you services as part of the wellness program will abide by the same confidentiality requirements. The only

individual(s) who will receive your personally identifiable health information is a health professional in order to provide you with services under the wellness program.

In addition, all medical information obtained through the wellness program will be maintained separate from your personnel records, information stored electronically will be encrypted, and no information you provide as part of the wellness program will be used in making any employment decision. Appropriate precautions will be taken to avoid any data breach, and in the event a data breach occurs involving information you provide in connection with the wellness program, we will notify you immediately.

You may not be discriminated against in employment because of the medical information you provide as part of participating in the wellness program, nor may you be subjected to retaliation if you choose not to participate.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this notice, or about protections against discrimination and retaliation, please contact the Plan Administrator listed on the front page of this document.

Patient Protection Notice

Group Health Plan generally requires the designation of a primary care provider. You have the right to designate any primary care provider who participates in our network and who is available to accept you or your family members. Until you make this designation, Group Health Plan designates one for you. For information on how to select a primary care provider, and for a list of the participating primary care providers, contact the Plan Administrator listed on the front page of this document.

For plans and issuers that require or allow for the designation of a primary care provider for a child, add:

For children, you may designate a pediatrician as the primary care provider.

For plans and issuers that provide coverage for obstetric or gynecological care and require the designation by a participant or beneficiary of a primary care provider, add:

You do not need prior authorization from Group Health Plan or from any other person (including a primary care provider) to obtain access to obstetrical or gynecological care from a health care professional in our network who specializes in obstetrics or gynecology. The health care professional, however, may be required to comply with certain procedures, including obtaining prior authorization for certain services, following a pre-approved treatment plan, or procedures for making referrals. For a list of participating health care professionals who specialize in obstetrics or gynecology, contact the Plan Administrator at Plan Administrator.

HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) requires that we maintain the privacy of protected health information, give notice of our legal duties and privacy practices regarding health information about you and follow the terms of our notice currently in effect.

If not attached to this document, you may request a copy of the current Privacy Practices, explaining how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information.

As Required by Law. We will disclose Health Information when required to do so by international, federal, state, or local law.

You have the right to:

- Inspect and copy records
- Receive an electronic copy of electronic medical records
- Get notice of a breach
- Amend records
- Receive an accounting of disclosures
- Request restrictions
- Request confidential communications
- Receive a paper copy of this notice
- File a complaint if you believe your privacy rights have been violated

Covered entities such as health plans may use the following HHS [Model Notice of Privacy Practices - Health Plan](#) by entering their specific information. Covered entities should review HHS' [Questions and Instructions](#) before personalizing the notice.

Your Information. Your Rights. Our Responsibilities.

This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. **Please review it carefully.**

Your Rights

When it comes to your health information, you have certain rights. This section explains your rights and some of our responsibilities to help you.

Get a copy of health and claims records

- You can ask to see or get a copy of your health and claims records and other health information we have about you. Ask us how to do this.
- We will provide a copy or a summary of your health and claims records, usually within 30 days of your request. We may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee.

Ask us to correct health and claims records

- You can ask us to correct your health and claims records if you think they are incorrect or incomplete.
- We may say “no” to your request, but we’ll tell you why in writing within 60 days.

Request confidential communications

- You can ask us to contact you in a specific way (for example, home or office phone) or to send mail to a different address.
- We will consider all reasonable requests, and must say “yes” if you tell us you would be in danger if we do not.

Ask us to limit what we use or share

- You can ask us not to use or share certain health information for treatment, payment, or our operations.
- We are not required to agree to your request, and we may say “no” if it would affect your care.

Get a list of those with whom we’ve shared information

- You can ask for a list (accounting) of the times we’ve shared your health information for six years prior to the date you ask, who we shared it with, and why.
- We will include all the disclosures except for those about treatment, payment, and health care operations, and certain other disclosures (such as any you asked us to make). We’ll provide one accounting a year for free but will charge a reasonable, cost-based fee if you ask for another one within 12 months.

Get a copy of this privacy notice

You can ask for a paper copy of this notice at any time, even if you have agreed to receive the notice electronically. We will provide you with a paper copy promptly.

Choose someone to act for you

- If you have given someone medical power of attorney or if someone is your legal guardian, that person can exercise your rights and make choices about your health information.
- We will make sure the person has this authority and can act for you before we take any action.

File a complaint if you feel your rights are violated

- You can complain if you feel we have violated your rights by contacting us using the information on page 1.
- You can file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights by sending a letter to 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, calling 1-877-696-6775, or visiting <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/filing-a-complaint/what-to-expect/index.html>.
- We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

Your Choices

For certain health information, you can tell us your choices about what we share. If you have a clear preference for how we share your information in the situations described below, talk to us. Tell us what you want us to do, and we will follow your instructions.

In these cases, you have both the right and choice to tell us to:

- Share information with your family, close friends, or others involved in payment for your car
- Share information in a disaster relief situation

If you are not able to tell us your preference, for example if you are unconscious, we may go ahead and share your information if we believe it is in your best interest. We may also share your information when needed to lessen a serious and imminent threat to health or safety.

In these cases, we never share your information unless you give us written permission:

- Marketing purposes
- Sale of your information

Our Uses and Disclosures

How do we typically use or share your health information? We typically use or share your health information in the following ways.

Help manage the health care treatment you receive

We can use your health information and share it with professionals who are treating you.

Example: A doctor sends us information about your diagnosis and treatment plan so we can arrange additional services.

Run our organization

We can use and disclose your information to run our organization and contact you when necessary.

We are not allowed to use genetic information to decide whether we will give you coverage and the price of that coverage. This does not apply to long term care plans.

Example: We use health information about you to develop better services for you.

Pay for your health services

We can use and disclose your health information as we pay for your health services.

Example: We share information about you with your dental plan to coordinate payment for your dental work.

Administer your plan We may disclose your health information to your health plan sponsor for plan administration.

Example: Your company contracts with us to provide a health plan, and we provide your company with certain statistics to explain the premiums we charge.

How else can we use or share your health information? We are allowed or required to share your information in other ways – usually in ways that contribute to the public good, such as public health and research. We have to meet many conditions in the law before we can share your information for these purposes. For more information see: www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-individuals/guidance-materials-for-consumers/index.html.

Help with public health and safety issues We can share health information about you for certain situations such as:

- Preventing disease
- Helping with product recalls
- Reporting adverse reactions to medications
- Reporting suspected abuse, neglect, or domestic violence
- Preventing or reducing a serious threat to anyone’s health or safety

Do research We can use or share your information for health research.

Comply with the law We will share information about you if state or federal laws require it, including with the Department of Health and Human Services if it wants to see that we’re complying with federal privacy law.

Respond to organ and tissue donation requests and work with a medical examiner or funeral director

- We can share health information about you with organ procurement organizations.
- We can share health information with a coroner, medical examiner, or funeral director when an individual dies.

Address workers’ compensation, law enforcement, and other government requests

We can use or share health information about you:

- For workers’ compensation claims
- For law enforcement purposes or with a law enforcement official
- With health oversight agencies for activities authorized by law
- For special government functions such as military, national security, and presidential protective services

Respond to lawsuits and legal actions We can share health information about you in response to a court or administrative order, or a subpoena.

Our Responsibilities

- We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your protected health information.
- We will let you know promptly if a breach occurs that may have compromised the privacy or security of your information.
- We must follow the duties and privacy practices described in this notice and give you a copy of it.
- We will not use or share your information other than as described here unless you tell us we can in writing. If you tell us we can, you may change your mind at any time. Let us know in writing if you change your mind.

For more information see: www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-individuals/notice-privacy-practices/index.html.

Changes to the Terms of this Notice

We can change the terms of this notice, and the changes will apply to all information we have about you. The new notice will be available upon request, on our web site, and we will mail a copy to you.

Other Instructions for Notice

- Insert Effective Date of this Notice
- Insert name or title of the privacy official (or other privacy contact) and his/her email address and phone number.
- Insert any special notes that apply to your entity's practices such as "we do not create or manage a hospital directory" or "we do not create or maintain psychotherapy notes at this practice."
- The Privacy Rule requires you to describe any state or other laws that require greater limits on disclosures. For example, "We will never share any substance abuse treatment records without your written permission." Insert this type of information here. If no laws with greater limits apply to your entity, no information needs to be added.
- If your entity provides patients with access to their health information via the Blue Button protocol, you may want to insert a reference to it here.
- If your entity is part of an OHCA (organized health care arrangement) that has agreed to a joint notice, use this space to inform your patients of how you share information within the OHCA (such as for treatment, payment, and operations related to the OHCA). Also, describe the other entities covered by this notice and their service locations. For example, "This notice applies to Grace Community Hospitals and Emergency Services Incorporated which operate the emergency services within all Grace hospitals in the greater Dayton area."

Additional Notices for New Enrollees

Notice of Special Enrollment Rights

If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance or group health plan coverage, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage (or if the employer stops contributing toward your or your dependents' other coverage). However, you must request enrollment within 30 DAYS after your or your dependents' other coverage ends (or after the employer stops contributing toward the other coverage).

In addition, if you have a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents. However, you must request enrollment within 30 DAYS after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact Plan Administrator

Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA

Introduction

You're getting this notice because you recently gained coverage under a group health plan (the Plan). This notice has important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. **This notice explains COBRA continuation coverage, when it may become available to you and your family, and what you need to do to protect your right to get it.**

When you become eligible for COBRA, you may also become eligible for other coverage options that may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage.

The right to COBRA continuation coverage was created by a federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). COBRA continuation coverage can become available to you and other members of your family when group health coverage would otherwise end. For more information about your rights and obligations under the Plan and under federal law, you should review the Plan's Summary Plan Description or contact the Plan Administrator.

You may have other options available to you when you lose group health coverage. For example, you may be eligible to buy an individual plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace. By enrolling in coverage through the Marketplace, you may qualify for lower costs on your monthly premiums and lower out-of-pocket costs. Additionally, you may qualify for a 30-day special enrollment period for another group health plan for which you are eligible (such as a spouse's plan), even if that plan generally doesn't accept late enrollees.

What is COBRA continuation coverage?

COBRA continuation coverage is a continuation of Plan coverage when it would otherwise end because of a life event. This is also called a "qualifying event." Specific qualifying events are listed later in this notice. After a qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage must be offered to each person who is a "qualified beneficiary." You, your spouse, and your dependent children could become qualified beneficiaries if coverage under the Plan is lost because of the qualifying event. Under the Plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation coverage for COBRA continuation coverage.

If you're an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- Your hours of employment are reduced, or
- Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

If you're the spouse of an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- Your spouse dies
- Your spouse's hours of employment are reduced
- Your spouse's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct
- Your spouse becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both)
- You become divorced or legally separated from your spouse

Your dependent children will become qualified beneficiaries if they lose coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- The parent-employee dies
- The parent-employee's hours of employment are reduced
- The parent-employee's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct
- The parent-employee becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (Part A, Part B, or both)
- The parents become divorced or legally separated
- The child stops being eligible for coverage under the Plan as a "dependent child"

When is COBRA continuation coverage available?

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to qualified beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator has been notified that a qualifying event has occurred. The employer must notify the Plan Administrator of the following qualifying events:

- The end of employment or reduction of hours of employment
- Death of the employee
- The employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both)

For all other qualifying events (divorce or legal separation of the employee and spouse or a dependent child's losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), you must notify the Plan Administrator within 60 days after the qualifying event occurs. You must provide this notice to: Plan Administrator.

How is COBRA continuation coverage provided?

Once the Plan Administrator receives notice that a qualifying event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. Each qualified beneficiary will have an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. Covered employees may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their spouses, and parents may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their children.

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage that generally lasts for 18 months due to employment termination or reduction of hours of work. Certain qualifying events, or a second qualifying event during the initial period of coverage, may permit a beneficiary to receive a maximum of 36 months of coverage.

There are also ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended

Disability extension of 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by Social Security to be disabled and you notify the Plan Administrator in a timely fashion, you and your entire family may be entitled to get up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 29 months. The disability would have to have started at some time before the 60th day of COBRA continuation coverage and must last at least until the end of the 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage.

Second qualifying event extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage

If your family experiences another qualifying event during the 18 months of COBRA continuation coverage, the spouse and dependent children in your family can get up to 18 additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 36 months, if the Plan is properly notified about the second qualifying event. This extension may be available to the spouse and any dependent children getting COBRA continuation coverage if the employee or former employee dies; becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); gets divorced or legally separated; or if the dependent child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child. This extension is only available if the second qualifying event would have caused the spouse or dependent child to lose coverage under the Plan had the first qualifying event not occurred.

Are there other coverage options besides COBRA continuation coverage?

Yes. Instead of enrolling in COBRA continuation coverage, there may be other coverage options for you and your family through the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicaid, [Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#), or other group health plan coverage options (such as a spouse's plan) through what is called a "special enrollment period." Some of these options may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage. You can learn more about many of these options at www.healthcare.gov.

Can I enroll in Medicare instead of COBRA continuation coverage after my group health plan coverage ends?

In general, if you don't enroll in Medicare Part A or B when you are first eligible because you are still employed, after the Medicare initial enrollment period, you have an eight-month [special enrollment period](#) to sign up for Medicare Part A or B, beginning on the earlier of

- The month after your employment ends; or
- The month after group health plan coverage based on current employment ends.

If you don't enroll in Medicare and elect COBRA continuation coverage instead, you may have to pay a Part B late enrollment penalty and you may have a gap in coverage if you decide you want Part B later. If you elect COBRA continuation coverage and later enroll in Medicare Part A or B before the COBRA continuation coverage ends, the Plan may terminate your continuation coverage. However, if Medicare Part A or B is effective on or before the date of the COBRA election, COBRA coverage may not be discontinued on account of Medicare entitlement, even if you enroll in the other part of Medicare after the date of the election of COBRA coverage.

If you are enrolled in both COBRA continuation coverage and Medicare, Medicare will generally pay first (primary payer) and COBRA continuation coverage will pay second. Certain plans may pay as if secondary to Medicare, even if you are not enrolled in Medicare.

For more information visit <https://www.medicare.gov/medicare-and-you>.

If you have questions

Questions concerning your Plan or your COBRA continuation coverage rights should be addressed to the contact or contacts identified below. For more information about your rights under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), including COBRA, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) in your area or visit www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa. (Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website.) For more information about the Marketplace, visit www.HealthCare.gov.

Keep your Plan informed of address changes

To protect your family's rights, let the Plan Administrator know about any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator.

Plan contact information

Info on the front page of this document

For the Department of Labor's Employer Exchange/Marketplace Notices and Instructions, visit:
http://www.dataair.com/PDF/DOL_Employer_Exchange_Notices.pdf

New Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage | For Employers that Offer a Health Plan to Some or All Employees

PART A: General Information

When key parts of the health care law took effect in 2014, a new option for health insurance was made available: the Health Insurance Marketplace Exchange. To assist you as you evaluate options for you and your family, this notice provides some basic information about the new Marketplace and employment-based health coverage offered by your employer.

What is the Health Insurance Marketplace?

The Marketplace is designed to help you find health insurance that meets your needs and fits your budget. The Marketplace offers "one-stop shopping" to find and compare private health insurance options. You may also be eligible for a new kind of tax credit that lowers your monthly premium right away. Open enrollment for health insurance coverage through the Marketplace begins in October for coverage starting as early as January 1.

Can I save money on my health insurance premiums in the Marketplace?

You may qualify to save money and lower your monthly premium, but only if your employer does not offer coverage, or offers coverage that doesn't meet certain standards. The savings on your premium that you're eligible for depends on your household income.

Does employer health coverage affect eligibility for premium savings through the Marketplace?

Yes. If you have an offer of health coverage from your employer that meets certain standards, you will not be eligible for a tax credit through the Marketplace and may wish to enroll in your employer's health plan. However, you may be eligible for a tax credit that lowers your monthly premium, or a reduction in certain cost-sharing if your employer does not offer coverage to you at all or does not offer coverage that meets certain standards. If the cost of a plan from your employer that would cover you (and not any other members of your family) is more than 9.5% of your household income for the year, or if the coverage your employer provides does not meet the "minimum value" standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit. (An employer-sponsored health plan meets the "minimum value standard" if the plan's share of the total allowed benefit costs covered by the plan is no less than 60 percent of such costs.)

Note: If you purchase a health plan through the Marketplace instead of accepting health coverage offered by your employer, then you may lose the employer contribution (if any) to the employer-offered coverage. Also, this employer contribution – as well as your employee contribution to employer-offered coverage – is often

excluded from income for federal and state income tax purposes. Your payments for coverage through the Marketplace are made on an after-tax basis.

How Can I Get More Information?

For more information about your coverage offered by your employer, please check your summary plan description or contact Plan Administrator.

The Marketplace can help you evaluate your coverage options, including your eligibility for coverage through the Marketplace and its cost. Please visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) for more information, including an online application for health insurance coverage and contact information for a Health Insurance Marketplace in your area.

OMB No. 1210-0149 (expires 9-30-2023)

PART B: Information About Health Coverage Offered by Your Employer

This section contains information about any health coverage offered by your employer. If you decide to complete an application for coverage in the Marketplace, you will be asked to provide this information. This information is numbered to correspond to the Marketplace application.

3. Employer name– Warren County		4. Employer Identification Number (EIN)– 42-6004798	
5. Employer address– 301 N Buxton STE 202		6. Employer phone number– 515-961-1030	
7. City– Indianola	8. State– IA	7. City– Indianola	
10. Who can we contact about employee health coverage at this job?– HR			
11. Phone number (if different from above)		12. Email address– lenem@warrencountyia.org	

For the Department of Labor’s Employer Exchange/Marketplace Notices and Instructions, visit:
http://www.datair.com/PDF/DOL_Employer_Exchange_Notices.pdf

New Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage | For Employers that Do Not Offer a Health Plan

PART A: General Information

When key parts of the health care law took effect in 2014, a new option for health insurance was made available: the Health Insurance Marketplace Exchange. To assist you as you evaluate options for you and your family, this notice provides some basic information about the new Marketplace.

What is the Health Insurance Marketplace?

The Marketplace is designed to help you find health insurance that meets your needs and fits your budget. The Marketplace offers “one-stop shopping” to find and compare private health insurance options. You may also be eligible for a new kind of tax credit that lowers your monthly premium right away. Open enrollment for health insurance coverage through the Marketplace begins in October for coverage starting as early as January 1.

Can I save money on my health insurance premiums in the Marketplace?

You may qualify to save money and lower your monthly premium, but only if your employer does not offer coverage, or offers coverage that doesn’t meet certain standards. The savings on your premium that you’re eligible for depends on your household income.

Does employer health coverage affect eligibility for premium savings through the Marketplace?

Yes. If you have an offer of health coverage from your employer that meets certain standards, you will not be eligible for a tax credit through the Marketplace and may wish to enroll in your employer's health plan. However, you may be eligible for a tax credit that lowers your monthly premium, or a reduction in certain cost-sharing if your employer does not offer coverage to you at all or does not offer coverage that meets certain standards. If the cost of a plan from your employer that would cover you (and not any other members of your family) is more than 9.5% of your household income for the year, or if the coverage your employer provides does not meet the "minimum value" standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit. (An employer-sponsored health plan meets the "minimum value standard" if the plan's share of the total allowed benefit costs covered by the plan is no less than 60 percent of such costs.)

Note: If you purchase a health plan through the Marketplace instead of accepting health coverage offered by your employer, then you may lose the employer contribution (if any) to the employer-offered coverage. Also, this employer contribution – as well as your employee contribution to employer-offered coverage – is often excluded from income for federal and state income tax purposes. Your payments for coverage through the Marketplace are made on an after-tax basis.

How Can I Get More Information?

The Marketplace can help you evaluate your coverage options, including your eligibility for coverage through the Marketplace and its cost. Please visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) for more information, including an online application for health insurance coverage and contact information for a Health Insurance Marketplace in your area.

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5. Employer address– 301 N Buxton STE 202		6. Employer phone number– 515-961-1030	
7. City– Indianola		8. State– IA	7. City– Indianola
10. Who can we contact about employee health coverage at this job?– HR			
11. Phone number (if different from above)		12. Email address– lenem@warrencountyia.org	

To comply with the No Surprises Act, group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage must make publicly available, post on a public website of the plan or issuer, and include on each Explanation of Benefits, information in plain language on the restrictions on balance billing in certain circumstances, any applicable state law protections against balance billing, the requirements of the Act, and information on contacting appropriate state and federal agencies to report suspected violations of these balance billing restrictions. Plans and issuers may use this model notice to meet the disclosure requirements. For more information and further instructions, see <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/model-disclosure-notice-patient-protections-against-surprise-billing-providers-facilities-health.pdf>.

Your Rights and Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills

When you get emergency care or get treated by an out-of-network provider at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, you are protected from balance billing. In these cases, you shouldn't be charged more than your plan's copayments, coinsurance, or deductible.

What is “balance billing” (sometimes called “surprise billing”)?

When you see a doctor or other health care provider, you may owe certain [out-of-pocket costs](#), like a [copayment](#), [coinsurance](#), or [deductible](#). You may have other costs or have to pay the entire bill if you see a provider or visit a health care facility that isn't in your health plan's network.

“Out-of-network” means providers and facilities that haven't signed a contract with your health plan to provide services. Out-of-network providers may be allowed to bill you for the difference between what your plan pays and the full amount charged for a service. This is called “balance billing.” This amount is likely more than in-network costs for the same service and might not count toward your plan's deductible or annual out-of-pocket limit.

“Surprise billing” is an unexpected balance bill. This can happen when you can't control who is involved in your care—like when you have an emergency or when you schedule a visit at an in-network facility but are unexpectedly treated by an out-of-network provider. Surprise medical bills could cost thousands of dollars depending on the procedure or service.

You're protected from balance billing for:

Emergency services

If you have an emergency medical condition and get emergency services from an out-of-network provider or facility, the most they can bill you is your plan's in-network cost-sharing amount (such as copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles). You *can't* be balance billed for these emergency services. This includes services you may get after you're in stable condition, unless you give written consent and give up your protections not to be balance billed for these post-stabilization services.

Certain services at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center

When you get services from an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, certain providers there may be out-of-network. In these cases, the most those providers can bill you is your plan's in-network cost-sharing amount. This applies to emergency medicine, anesthesia, pathology, radiology, laboratory, neonatology,

assistant surgeon, hospitalist, or intensivist services. These providers *can't* balance bill you and may *not* ask you to give up your protections not to be balance billed.

If you get other services at these in-network facilities, out-of-network providers *can't* balance bill you, unless you give written consent and give up your protections.

You're *never* required to give up your protections from balance billing. You also aren't required to get out-of-network care. You can choose a provider or facility in your plan's network.

When balance billing isn't allowed, you also have the following protections:

- You're only responsible for paying your share of the cost (like the copayments, coinsurance, and deductible that you would pay if the provider or facility was in-network). Your health plan will pay any additional costs to out-of-network providers and facilities directly.
- Generally, your health plan must:
 - Cover emergency services without requiring you to get approval for services in advance (also known as "prior authorization").
 - Cover emergency services by out-of-network providers.
 - Base what you owe the provider or facility (cost-sharing) on what it would pay an in-network provider or facility and show that amount in your explanation of benefits.
 - Count any amount you pay for emergency services or out-of-network services toward your in-network deductible and out-of-pocket limit.

If you believe you've been wrongly billed, contact the federal phone number for information and complaints is 1-800-985-3059.

Visit www.cms.gov/nosurprises/consumers for more information about your rights under federal law.