# Annual Notices Packet 2026

## Important Notices from Bethany Lutheran Health Services regarding the Health and Welfare 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 \| | TrueNorth Companies |
| Phone \| | 888-655-9980 |
| Email \| | trueadvocate@truenorthcompanies.com |
| Mailing Address | PO Box 1863 |
| | Cedar Rapids, IA 52401 |

Distribution Date: January 2026

*If applicable:*

These notices are available 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.


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# Medicare Creditable Coverage Letter

## Important Notice from Bethany Lutheran Health Services 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 with Bethany Lutheran Health Services 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.

Bethany Lutheran Health Services has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Wellmark medical 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 Bethany Lutheran Health Services coverage maybe be affected.


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If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Bethany Lutheran Health Services coverage, be aware that you and your dependents may 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 with Bethany Lutheran Health Services 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 plan administrator 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 Bethany Lutheran Health Services 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, 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).


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## 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 at 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. 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).


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# 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 https://www.askebsa.dol.gov/ 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.


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## 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.flmedicaidtplrecovery.com/flmedicaidtplrecovery.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

Health Insurance Premium Payment Program
All other Medicaid
Website: https://www.in.gov/medicaid
http://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/
Family and Social Services Administration
Phone: 800-402-0864
Member Services Phone: 800-457-4584

## IOWA – Medicaid and CHIP (Hawki)

Medicaid Website:
Iowa Medicaid Health & Human Services
Medicaid Phone: 800-338-8366
Hawki Website:
Hawki - Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa | Health & Human Services
Hawki Phone: 800-257-8563
HIPP Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) | Health & Human Services (iowa.gov)
HIPP Phone: 888-346-9562

## KANSAS – Medicaid

Website: https://www.kancare.ks.gov
Phone: 800-792-4884
HIPP Phone: 800-967-4660


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## 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: KIHIPP.PROGRAM@ky.gov
KCHIP Website: http://kynekt.ky.gov
Phone: 877-524-4718
Kentucky Medicaid Website: https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms

## LOUISIANA – Medicaid

Website: http://www.medicaid.la.gov 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/health-care-coverage/
Phone: 800-657-3672

## 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: HHSHIPPProgram@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://dhcfp.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. 15218
Email: DHHS.ThirdPartyLiabi@dhhs.nh.gov

## NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP

Medicaid Website: http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid
Phone: 800-356-1561
CHIP Premium Assistance Phone: 609-631-2392
CHIP Website: http://www.njfamilycare.org
CHIP Phone: 800-701-0710 (TTY: 711)

## NEW YORK – Medicaid

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


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## 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.pa.gov/en/services/dhs/apply-formedicaid-health-insurance-premium-payment-programhipp.html
Phone: 800-692-7462
CHIP Website: Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (pa.gov)
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
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

Utah's Premium Partnership for Health Insurance (UPP) Website: https://medicaid.utah.gov/upp/
Email: upp@utah.gov
Phone: 1-888-222-2542
Adult Expansion Website:
https://medicaid.utah.gov/expansion/
Utah Medicaid Buyout Program Website:
https://medicaid.utah.gov/buyout-program/
CHIP Website: https://chip.utah.gov/

## 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


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## 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, 2024, 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.hhs.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)


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# 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

## 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.


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| | |
|---|---|
| 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.<br>• 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.<br>• 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.<br>• 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.<br>• 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.<br>• 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.<br>• 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.<br>• We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint. |


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## 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.<br><br>*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.<br><br>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.<br><br>*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.<br><br>*Example: We share information about you with your dental plan to coordinate payment for your dental work.* |


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### 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.


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## 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."


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# 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 or 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 the plan administrator.


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# 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 must pay 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.


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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 the 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


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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.


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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

TrueNorth

PO Box 1863

Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

888-655-9980


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

# 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

Even if you are offered health coverage through your employment, you may have other coverage options through the Health Insurance Marketplace ("Marketplace"). To assist you as you evaluate options for you and your family, this notice provides some basic information about the Marketplace and health coverage offered through your employment.

### 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 in your geographic area.

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

You may qualify to save money and lower your monthly premium and other out-of-pocket costs, but only if your employer does not offer coverage, or offers coverage that is not considered affordable for you and doesn't meet certain minimum value standards (discussed below). The savings that you're eligible for depends on your household income. You may also be eligible for a tax credit that lowers your costs.

### Does employment-based health coverage affect eligibility for premium savings through the Marketplace?

Yes. If you have an offer of health coverage from your employer that is considered affordable and meets certain minimum value standards, you will not be eligible for a tax credit or advance payment of the tax credit, for your Marketplace coverage and may wish to enroll in your employment-based health plan. However, you may be eligible for a tax credit and advance payments of the 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 is considered affordable for you or meet minimum value standards. If your share of the premium cost of all plans offered to you through your employment is more than 9.02% of your annual household income, or if the coverage through your employment provides does not meet the "minimum value" standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit and advance payment of the credit, if you do not enroll in the employment-based health coverage. For family members of the employee, coverage is considered affordable if the employee's cost of premiums for the lowest-cost plan that would cover all family members does not exceed 9.02% of the employee's household income. (An employer-sponsored or other employment-based 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. For purposes of eligibility for the premium tax credit, to meet


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the "minimum value standard," the health plan must also provide substantial coverage of both inpatient hospital services and physician services.)

Note: If you purchase a health plan through the Marketplace instead of accepting health coverage offered through your employment, then you may lose access to whatever the employer contributes to the employment-based coverage. Also, this employer contribution – as well as your employee contribution to employment-based coverage – is generally excluded from income for federal and state income tax purposes. Your payments for coverage through the Marketplace are made on an after-tax basis. In addition, note that if the health coverage offered through your employment does not meet the affordability or minimum value standards, but you accept that coverage anyway, you will not be eligible for a tax credit. You should consider all of these factors in determining whether to purchase a health plan through the Marketplace.

## When can I enroll in health insurance coverage through the Marketplace?

You can enroll in a Marketplace health insurance plan during the annual Marketplace Open Enrollment Period. Open Enrollment varies by state but generally starts November 1 and continues through at least December 15.

Outside the annual Open Enrollment Period, you can sign up for health insurance if you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period. In general, you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period if you've had certain qualifying life events, such as getting married, having a baby, adopting a child, or losing eligibility for other health coverage. Depending on your Special Enrollment Period type, you may have 60 days before or 60 days following the qualifying life event to enroll in a Marketplace plan.

There is also a Marketplace Special Enrollment Period for individuals and their families who lose eligibility for Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage on or after March 31, 2023, through July 31, 2024. Since the onset of the nationwide COVID-19 public health emergency, state Medicaid and CHIP agencies generally have not terminated the enrollment of any Medicaid or CHIP beneficiary who was enrolled on or after March 18, 2020, through March 31, 2023. As state Medicaid and CHIP agencies resume regular eligibility and enrollment practices, many individuals may no longer be eligible for Medicaid or CHIP coverage starting as early as March 31, 2023. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is **offering a temporary Marketplace Special Enrollment period to allow these individuals to enroll in Marketplace coverage**.

Marketplace-eligible individuals who live in states served by HealthCare.gov and either submit a new application or update an existing application on HealthCare.gov between March 31, 2023, and July 31, 2024, and attest to a termination date of Medicaid or CHIP coverage within the same time period, are eligible for a 60-day Special Enrollment Period. **That means that if you lose Medicaid or CHIP coverage between March 31, 2023, and July 31, 2024, you may be able to enroll in Marketplace coverage within 60 days of when you lost Medicaid or CHIP coverage.** In addition, if you or your family members are enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP coverage, it is important to make sure that your contact information is up to date to make sure you get any information about changes to your eligibility. To learn more, visit HealthCare.gov or call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596. TTY users can call 1-855-889-4325.

## What about alternatives to Marketplace Health Insurance Coverage?


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If you or your family are eligible for coverage in an employment-based health plan (such as an employer-sponsored health plan), you or your family may also be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period to enroll in that health plan in certain circumstances, including if you or your dependents were enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP coverage and lost that coverage. Generally, you have 60 days after the loss of Medicaid or CHIP coverage to enroll in an employment-based health plan, but if you and your family lost eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP coverage between March 31, 2023, and July 10, 2023, you can request this special enrollment in the employment-based health plan through September 8, 2023. Confirm the deadline with your employer or your employment-based health plan.

Alternatively, you can enroll in Medicaid or CHIP coverage at any time by filling out an application through the Marketplace or applying directly through your state Medicaid agency. Visit https://www.healthcare.gov/medicaid-chip/getting-medicaid-chip/ for more details.

## 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 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 12-31-2026)


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## 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.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">2. Employer name– Bethany Lutheran Health Services</td><td colspan="2">4. Employer Identification Number (EIN)– 42–1014553</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">5. Employer address– 7 Elliott Street</td><td colspan="2">6. Employer phone number– 712–328–9500</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">7. City– Council Bluffs</td><td>8. State– IA</td><td>9. ZIP Code– 51503</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">10. Who can we contact about employee health coverage at this job?<br><br>TrueNorth</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">11. Phone number (if different from above)<br><br>888–655–9980</td><td colspan="2">12. Email address–<br><br>trueadvocate@truenorthcompanies.com</td></tr>
</table>

Here is some basic information about health coverage offered by this employer:

As your employer, we offer a health plan to:

☑All employees. Eligible employees are:

All Full-Time employees working at least 30 hours per week.

With respect to dependents:

☐ We do offer coverage. Eligible dependents are:

Spouses, natural child, legally adopted or placed for adoption child, child for whom member has legal guardianship, stepchild.

☑ If checked, this coverage meets the minimum value standard, and the cost of this coverage to you is intended to be affordable, based on employee wages.


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Even if your employer intends your coverage to be affordable, you may still be eligible for a premium discount through the Marketplace. The Marketplace will use your household income, along with other factors, to determine whether you may be eligible for a premium discount. If, for example, your wages vary from week to week (perhaps you are an hourly employee or you work on a commission basis), if you are newly employed mid-year, or if you have other income losses, you may still qualify for a premium discount.

If you decide to shop for coverage in the Marketplace, HealthCare.gov will guide you through the process. Here's the employer information you'll enter when you visit HealthCare.gov to find out if you can get a tax credit to lower your monthly premiums.


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# 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 additional 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 balanced 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.


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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 your plan administrator. The federal phone number for information and complaints is 1-800-985-3059].


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# General FMLA Notice

# Your Employee Rights under the Family and Medical Leave Act

## What is FMLA leave?

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) is a federal law that provides eligible employees with job-protected leave for qualifying family and medical reasons. The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) enforces the FMLA for most employees.

Eligible employees can take up to 12 workweeks of FMLA leave in a 12-month period for:

- The birth, adoption or foster placement of a child with you
- Your serious mental or physical health condition that makes you unable to work
- To care for your spouse, child or parent with a serious mental or physical health condition
- Certain qualifying reasons related to the foreign deployment of your spouse, child or parent who is a military servicemember

An eligible employee who is the spouse, child, parent or next of kin of a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness may take up to 26 workweeks of FMLA leave in a single 12-month period to care for the servicemember.

You have the right to use FMLA leave in one block of time. When it is medically necessary or otherwise permitted, you may take FMLA leave intermittently in separate blocks of time, or on a reduced schedule by working less hours each day or week. Read Fact Sheet #28M(c) for more information.

FMLA leave is not paid leave, but you may choose, or be required by your employer, to use any employer-provided paid leave if your employer's paid leave policy covers the reason for which you need FMLA leave.

## Am I eligible to take FMLA leave?

You are an eligible employee if all of the following apply:

- You work for a covered employer,
- You have worked for your employer at least 12 months,
- You have at least 1,250 hours of service for your employer during the 12 months before your leave, and
- Your employer has at least 50 employees within 75 miles of your work location.

Airline flight crew employees have different "hours of service" requirements.

You work for a covered employer if one of the following applies:

- You work for a private employer that had at least 50 employees during at least 20 workweeks in the current or previous calendar year
- You work for an elementary or public or private secondary school


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- You work for a public agency, such as a local, state or federal government agency. Most federal employees are covered by Title II of the FMLA, administered by the Office of Personnel Management.

## How do I request FMLA leave?

Generally, to request FMLA leave you must:

- Follow your employer's normal policies for requesting leave
- Give notice at least 30 days before your need for FMLA leave, or
- If advance notice is not possible, give notice as soon as possible.

You do not have to share a medical diagnosis but must provide enough information to your employer so they can determine whether the leave qualifies for FMLA protection. You must also inform your employer if FMLA leave was previously taken or approved for the same reason when requesting additional leave.

Your employer may request certification from a health care provider to verify medical leave and may request certification of a qualifying exigency.

The FMLA does not affect any federal or state law prohibiting discrimination or supersede any state or local law or collective bargaining agreement that provides greater family or medical leave rights.

State employees may be subject to certain limitations in pursuit of direct lawsuits regarding leave for their own serious health conditions. Most federal and certain congressional employees are also covered by the law but are subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management or Congress.

## What does my employer need to do?

If you are eligible for FMLA leave, your employer must:

- Allow you to take job-protected time off work for a qualifying reason
- Continue your group health plan coverage while you are on leave on the same basis as if you had not taken leave
- Allow you to return to the same job, or a virtually identical job with the same pay, benefits and other working conditions, including shift and location, at the end of your leave.

Your employer cannot interfere with your FMLA rights or threaten or punish you for exercising your rights under the law. For example, your employer cannot retaliate against you for requesting FMLA leave or cooperating with a WHD investigation.


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After becoming aware that your need for leave is for a reason that may qualify under the FMLA, your employer must confirm whether you are eligible or not eligible for FMLA leave. If your employer determines that you are eligible, your employer must notify you in writing:

- About your FMLA rights and responsibilities
- How much of your requested leave, if any, will be FMLA-protected leave.

## Where can I find more information?

Call 1-866-487-9243 or visit dol.gov/fmla to learn more. If you believe your rights under the FMLA have been violated, you may file a complaint with WHD or file a private lawsuit against your employer in court.


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# Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) Disclosure

The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 generally requires group health plans and health insurance issuers to ensure that financial requirements (such as co-pays and deductibles) and treatment limitations (such as annual visit limits) applicable to mental health or substance use disorder benefits are no more restrictive than the predominant requirements or limitations applied to substantially all medical/surgical benefits.

For information regarding the criteria for medical necessity determinations made under the 2024 Plan Year with respect to mental health or substance use disorder benefits, please contact you plan administrator.


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# USERRA Notice

# Your Rights Under USERRA

## The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act

USERRA protects the job rights of individuals who voluntarily or involuntarily leave employment positions to undertake military service or certain types of service in the National Disaster Medical System. USERRA also prohibits employers from discriminating against past and present members of the uniformed services, and applicants to the uniformed services.

## Reemployment Rights

You have the right to be reemployed in your civilian job if you leave that job to perform service in the uniformed service and:

- You ensure that your employer receives advance written or verbal notice of your service;
- You have five years or less of cumulative service in the uniformed services while with that particular employer;
- You return to work or apply for reemployment in a timely manner after conclusion of service; and
- You have not been separated from service with a disqualifying discharge or under other than honorable conditions.

If you are eligible to be reemployed, you must be restored to the job and benefits you would have attained if you had not been absent due to military service or, in some cases, a comparable job.

## Right to Be Free from Discrimination and Retaliation

If you:

- Are a past or present member of the uniformed service
- Have applied for membership in the uniformed service
- Are obligated to serve in the uniformed service


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Then an employer may not deny you:

- Initial employment
- Reemployment
- Retention in employment
- Promotion
- Any benefit of employment because of this status

In addition, an employer may not retaliate against anyone assisting in the enforcement of USERRA rights, including testifying or making a statement in connection with a proceeding under USERRA, even if that person has no service connection.

## Health Insurance Protection

- If you leave your job to perform military service, you have the right to elect to continue your existing employer-based health plan coverage for you and your dependents for up to 24 months while in the military.
- Even if you do not elect to continue coverage during your military service, you have the right to be reinstated in your employer's health plan when you are reemployed, generally without any waiting periods or exclusions (e.g., pre-existing condition exclusions) except for service-connected illnesses or injuries.

## Enforcement

- The U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) is authorized to investigate and resolve complaints of USERRA violations.
- For assistance in filing a complaint, or for any other information on USERRA, contact VETS at 1-866-4-USA-DOL or visit its Web site at http://www.dol.gov/vets. An interactive online USERRA Advisor can be viewed at http://www.dol.gov/elaws/userra.htm.
- If you file a complaint with VETS and VETS is unable to resolve it, you may request that your case be referred to the Department of Justice or the Office of Special Counsel, as applicable, for representation.
- You may also bypass the VETS process and bring a civil action against an employer for violations of USERRA.

The rights listed here may vary depending on the circumstances. The text of this notice was prepared by VETS, and may be viewed on the Internet at this address: http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra/poster.htm. Federal law requires employers to notify employees of their rights under USERRA, and employers may meet this requirement by displaying the text of this notice where they customarily place notices for employees. U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service, 1-866-487-2365.


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