



# IMPORTANT *Notices*



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SACRAMENTO  
COUNTY

# Important Notices

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## No Surprises Act Notice

Our medical plans are subject to the No Surprises Act, which limits the amount covered persons may have to pay for some out-of-network surprise medical bills. More information about surprise billing requirements included under the No Surprises Act and similar state laws can be found on the medical insurance company's website or the Plan Sponsor's website. Additional information may be found in your Explanation of Benefits for any affected claims.

## Discrimination is Against the Law

County of Sacramento complies with the applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency and primary language), age, disability, or sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics). County of Sacramento does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

## Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act (NMHPA)

Benefits for a pregnancy hospital stay (for delivery) for a mother and her newborn may not be restricted to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery or 96 hours following a cesarean section. Also, any utilization review requirements for inpatient hospital admissions will not apply to this minimum length of stay. Early discharge is permitted only if the attending health care provider, in consultation with the mother, decides an earlier discharge is appropriate.

## Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act (WHCRA) Annual Notice

Your plan, as required by the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998, 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. For more information, you should review the Summary Plan Description or contact the Plan Administrator.

## Patient Protections

The medical plan 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, the plan will designate one for you. For information on how to select a primary care provider, and for a list of the participating primary care providers, please visit the medical plan's website or call their customer service center.

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

You do not need prior authorization from the plan or any other person (including a primary care provider) to obtain access to obstetrical or gynecological care from a health care professional in the 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, please visit the medical plan's website or call their customer service center.

## Networks/Claims/Appeals

The major medical plans described in this booklet have provider networks with Kaiser, Sutter Health Plan and Western Health Advantage. The listing of provider networks will be available to you automatically and free of charge. A list of network providers can be accessed immediately by using the Internet address found in the Summary of Benefits and Coverage that relates to the Plan. You have a right to appeal denials of claims and a right to a response within a reasonable amount of time. Claims that are not submitted within a reasonable time may be denied. Please review your Summary Plan Description or contact the Plan Administrator for more details.

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## COBRA Continuation Coverage

This notice has important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under covered medical, dental, and vision plans (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 receive 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 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 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 does not 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 are an employee, you will become a Qualified Beneficiary if you lose 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 are the spouse of an employee, you will 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 their gross misconduct;
- Your spouse becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); or,
- 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 employment ends for any reason other than their gross misconduct;
- The parent-employee becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (Part A, Part B, or both);
- The parents become divorced or legally separated; or,
- 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 of a Qualifying Event:

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

**For all other Qualifying Events (e.g., divorce or legal separation of the employee and spouse, or a dependent child losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child, etc.), you must notify the Plan Administrator within 60 days after the Qualifying Event occurs. You must provide this notice to your employer.**

Life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment benefits, and weekly income or long-term disability benefits (if part of the employer’s plan), are not eligible for continuation under COBRA.

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## **NOTICE AND ELECTION PROCEDURES**

Each type of notice or election to be provided by a covered employee or a Qualified Beneficiary under this COBRA Continuation Coverage Section must be in writing, must be signed and dated, and must be mailed or hand-delivered to the Plan Administrator, properly addressed, or as otherwise permitted by the COBRA administrator, no later than the date specified in the election form, and properly submitted to the Plan Administrator.

Each notice must include all of the following items: the covered employee's full name, address, phone number, and Social Security Number; the full name, address, phone number, and Social Security Number of each affected dependent, as well as each dependent's relationship to the covered employee; a description of the Qualifying Event or disability determination that has occurred; the date the Qualifying Event or disability determination occurred; a copy of the Social Security Administration's written disability determination, if applicable; and the name of the Plan. The Plan Administrator may establish specific forms that must be used to provide a notice or election.

## **ELECTION AND ELECTION PERIOD**

COBRA continuation coverage may be elected during the period beginning on the date Plan coverage would otherwise terminate due to a Qualifying Event and ending on the later of the following: (1) 60 days after coverage ends due to a Qualifying Event, or (2) 60 days after the notice of the COBRA continuation coverage rights is provided to the Qualified Beneficiary.

If, during the election period, a Qualified Beneficiary waives COBRA continuation coverage rights, the waiver can be revoked at any time before the end of the election period. Revocation of the waiver will be an election of COBRA continuation coverage. However, if a waiver is revoked, coverage need not be provided retroactively (that is, from the date of the loss of coverage until the waiver is revoked). Waivers and revocations of waivers are considered to be made on the date they are sent to the employer or 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 on behalf of their dependent 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.

## **DISABILITY EXTENSION OF THE 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. This disability would have to have started 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. (See Notice and Election Procedures.)

## **SECOND QUALIFYING EVENT EXTENSION OF 18-MONTH PERIOD OF COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE**

If your family experiences another Qualifying Event during the 18 months of COBRA continuation of coverage, the spouse and dependent children in your family can get up to 18 additional months of COBRA continuation of 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 receiving COBRA continuation of coverage if the employee or former employee dies; becomes entitled to Medicare (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 the dependent child to lose coverage under the Plan had the first Qualifying Event not occurred. (See Notice and Election Procedures.)



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## OTHER OPTIONS BESIDES COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE

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](http://www.healthcare.gov).

## ENROLLMENT IN MEDICARE INSTEAD OF COBRA

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<sup>1</sup> 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

For more information about the Marketplace, visit [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), has jurisdiction with respect to the COBRA continuation coverage requirements of the Public Health Service Act (PHSA) that apply to state and local government employers, including counties, municipalities, public school districts, and the group health plans that they sponsor (Public Sector COBRA). COBRA can be a daunting and complex area of federal law. If you have any questions or issues regarding Public Sector COBRA, you may contact the Plan Administrator or email HHS at [phig@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:phig@cms.hhs.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.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERAGE

COBRA continuation coverage, if elected within the period allowed for such election, is effective retroactively to the date coverage would otherwise have terminated due to the Qualifying Event, and the Qualified Beneficiary will be charged for coverage in this retroactive period.

## COST OF CONTINUATION COVERAGE

The cost of COBRA continuation coverage will not exceed 102% of the Plan's full cost of coverage during the same period for similarly situated non-COBRA beneficiaries to whom a Qualifying Event has not occurred. The "full cost" includes any part of the cost which is paid by the employer for non-COBRA beneficiaries.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/>

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The initial payment must be made within 45 days after the date of the COBRA election by the Qualified Beneficiary. Payment must cover the period of coverage from the date of the COBRA election retroactive to the date of loss of coverage due to the Qualifying Event (or the date a COBRA waiver was revoked, if applicable). The first and subsequent payments must be submitted and made payable to the Plan Administrator or COBRA Administrator. Payments for successive periods of coverage are due on the first of each month thereafter, with a 30-day grace period allowed for payment. Where an employee, organization or any other entity that provides Plan benefits on behalf of the Plan Administrator permits a billing grace period greater than the 30 days stated above, such period shall apply in lieu of the 30 days. Payment is to be made on the date it is sent to the Plan or Plan Administrator.

The Plan will allow the payment for COBRA continuation coverage to be made in monthly installments, but the Plan can also allow for payment at other intervals. The Plan is not obligated to send monthly premium notices.

The Plan will notify the Qualified Beneficiary, in writing, of any termination of COBRA coverage based on the criteria stated in this Section that occurs prior to the end of the Qualified Beneficiary's applicable maximum coverage period. Notice will be given within 30 days of the Plan's decision to terminate.

Such notice shall include the reason that continuation coverage has terminated earlier than the end of the maximum coverage period for such Qualifying Event and the date of termination of continuation coverage.

**See the Summary Plan Description or contact the Plan Administrator for more information.**

## Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)

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 (including your spouse) 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 for pre-existing conditions except for service-connected injuries or illnesses.

## Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs) – Termination and Claims Submission Deadlines

**Note:** If you lose eligibility for any reason during the Plan Year, your contributions to your Health and/or Dependent Care FSAs will end as of the date your eligibility terminates. You may submit claims for reimbursement from your FSAs for expenses incurred during the Plan Year prior to your eligibility termination. You must submit claims for reimbursement from your Health and/or Dependent Care FSAs no later than 90 days after the date your eligibility terminates. Any balance remaining in your FSAs will be forfeited after claims submitted prior to this date have been processed.

## Special Enrollment Rights Notice

### CHANGES TO YOUR HEALTH PLAN ELECTIONS

Once you make your benefits elections, they cannot be changed until the next Open Enrollment. Open Enrollment is held once a year.

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 there is a loss of other coverage. However, you must request enrollment no later than 30 days after that other coverage ends.

If you declined coverage while Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is in effect, you may be able to enroll yourself and/or your dependents in this plan if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage. However, you must request enrollment no later than 60 days after Medicaid or CHIP coverage ends.

If you or your dependents become eligible for Medicaid or CHIP premium assistance, you may be able to enroll yourself and/or your dependents into this plan. However, you must request enrollment no later than 60 days after the determination to remain eligible for such assistance.

If you have a change in family status such as a new dependent resulting from marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption, divorce (including legal separation and annulment), death, or a Qualified Medical Child Support Order, you may be able to enroll yourself and/or your dependents. However, you must request enrollment no later than 30 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption or divorce (including legal separation and annulment).

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For information about Special Enrollment Rights, please contact:

Employee Benefits Office  
916.874.2020  
[mybenefits@saccounty.gov](mailto:mybenefits@saccounty.gov)

## **Availability of Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Notice of Privacy Practices**

County of Sacramento Group Health Plan (Plan) maintains a Notice of Privacy Practices that provides information to individuals whose protected health information (PHI) will be used or maintained by the Plan. If you would like a copy of the Plan's Notice of Privacy Practices, please contact Employee Benefits Office at 916.874.2020.

## **Wellness – Alternative Standards**

Your health plan is committed to helping you achieve your best health. Rewards for participating in a wellness program are available to all participating employees. If you think you might be unable to meet a standard for a reward under the wellness program, you might qualify for an opportunity to earn the same reward by different means. Contact us at the Employee Benefits Office at 916.874.4695 or [mybenefits@saccounty.gov](mailto:mybenefits@saccounty.gov) 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 with regard to your health status.

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## Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage

### PART A: GENERAL INFORMATION

This notice provides you with information about County of Sacramento] in the event you wish to apply for coverage on the Health Insurance Marketplace. All the information you need from Human Resources is listed in this notice. If you wish to have someone assist you in the application process or have questions about subsidies that you may be eligible to receive, (for California residents only) you can contact KeenanDirect at 855-653-3626 or at [www.KeenanDirect.com](http://www.KeenanDirect.com), or (for everyone) contact the Health Insurance Marketplace directly at [www.Healthcare.gov](http://www.Healthcare.gov).

#### WHAT IS THE HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE?

The Marketplace is designed to help you find health insurance that meets your needs and fits your budget by offering “one-stop shopping” to find and compare private health insurance options. You may also be eligible for a tax credit that lowers your monthly premium right away.

Open Enrollment for health insurance coverage through Covered California begins on November 1 of each year and ends on January 31 of each the following year. For more information on Open Enrollment and other opportunities to enroll, visit [www.coveredca.com](http://www.coveredca.com), KeenanDirect at 855-653-3626 or [www.KeenanDirect.com](http://www.KeenanDirect.com).

Open Enrollment for most other states begins on November 1 and closes on January 15 of each year. For more information on Open Enrollment and other opportunities to enroll, visit [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

#### 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 you coverage, offers medical coverage that is not “Affordable,” or does not provide “Minimum Value.” If the lowest cost plan from your employer that would cover you (and not any other members of your family) is more than 9.96% (for 2026) of your household income for the year, then that coverage for you is not Affordable. Affordability for dependent family members is determined separately and is based on the total cost of family coverage. Moreover, if the medical coverage offered covers less than 60% of the benefits costs, then the plan does not provide Minimum Value.

#### DOES EMPLOYER HEALTH COVERAGE AFFECT ELIGIBILITY FOR PREMIUM SAVINGS THROUGH THE MARKETPLACE?

Yes. If you have an offer of medical coverage from your employer that is both Affordable and provides Minimum Value, you will not be eligible for a tax credit through the Marketplace and may wish to enroll in your employer’s medical plan. If you receive premium savings for Marketplace coverage, the IRS may seek reimbursement of those funds.

**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 medical 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.

#### STATES WITH INDIVIDUAL MANDATE

Taxpayers in CA, DC, MA, NJ, RI, and VT (this list is neither complete nor exhaustive) are reminded that your state imposes an individual mandate penalty (tax) should you, your spouse, and children choose to not have (and keep) medical/Rx coverage for each tax year. Please consult your tax advisor for how a non-election for health coverage may affect your tax situation.



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## PART B: INFORMATION ABOUT HEALTH COVERAGE OFFERED BY YOUR EMPLOYER

In the event you wish to apply for coverage on the Exchange, all the information you need from Human Resources is listed below. If you are located in California and wish to have someone assist you in the application process or have questions about subsidies that you may be eligible to receive, you can contact KeenanDirect at 855-653-3626 or at [www.KeenanDirect.com](http://www.KeenanDirect.com). The information is numbered to correspond to the Marketplace application.

<b>3. Employer name</b> County of Sacramento	<b>4. Employer Identification Number (EIN)</b> 09-6000529	
<b>5. Employer address</b> 700 H Street, Suite 4650	<b>6. Employer phone number</b> 916.874.4695	
<b>7. City</b> Sacramento	<b>8. State</b> CA	<b>9. ZIP code</b> 95814
<b>10. Who can we contact about employee health coverage at this job?</b> Employee Benefits Office		
<b>11. Phone number (if different from above)</b>	<b>12. Email address</b> <a href="mailto:mybenefits@saccounty.gov">mybenefits@saccounty.gov</a>	

As your employer, we offer coverage that meets the minimum value standard to the employees as described in this Guide. The coverage offered to you 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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## Notice of Creditable Coverage: Information About Medicare Part D and Your Prescription Drug Coverage

County of Sacramento has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Kaiser, Sutter Health Plan and Western Health Advantage is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out the same or more than what the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage.

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice. NOTE: You are responsible for providing this notice to all Medicare eligible family members (or those about to become Medicare eligible).

### WHEN CAN YOU JOIN A MEDICARE DRUG PLAN?

When someone first becomes eligible to enroll in a government-sponsored Medicare "Part D" prescription drug plan, enrollment is considered timely if completed by the end of his or her "Initial Enrollment Period" which ends three months after the month in which he or she turned 65.

Unfortunately, if you choose not to enroll in Medicare Part D during your Initial Enrollment Period, when you finally do enroll, you may be subject to a late enrollment penalty added to your monthly Medicare Part D premium. Specifically, the extra cost, if any, increases based on the number of full, uncovered months during which you went without either Medicare Part D or without "Creditable" prescription drug coverage from another plan, such as our plan.

Eligible individuals can enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan during Medicare's "Annual Coordinated Election Period" (a.k.a. "Open Enrollment Period") running from October 15 through December 7 of each year, as well as during what is known as a "Medicare Special Enrollment Period" which is triggered by certain qualifying events, including the loss of creditable group prescription drug coverage. Those who miss these opportunities are generally unable to enroll in a Medicare Part D plan until another enrollment period becomes available. Finally, please be cautioned that even if you elect our coverage, you could be subject to a payment of higher Part D premiums if you subsequently experience a break in coverage of 63 continuous days or longer before you enroll in the Medicare Part D plan. Carefully coordinating your transition between plans is therefore essential.

### 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 County of Sacramento coverage will not be affected. If you keep this coverage and elect Medicare, the County of Sacramento coverage will coordinate with Part D coverage. If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current County of Sacramento coverage, be aware that you and your dependents may be unable to get this coverage back.

It is important for those eligible for both Medicare and our group health plan to look ahead and weigh the costs and benefits of the various options on a regular, if not annual, basis. Based on individual facts and circumstances, some choose to elect Medicare only, some choose to elect coverage under the group health plan only, while some choose to enroll in both coverages. When both are elected, please note that benefits coordinate according to the Medicare Secondary Payer Rules. That is, one plan or the other would reduce their payment to prevent you from being reimbursed the full amount from both sources. Your age, the reason for your Medicare eligibility and other factors determine which plan is primary (pays first, generally without reductions) versus secondary (pays second, generally with reductions).

### WHEN WILL YOU PAY A HIGHER PREMIUM (PENALTY) TO JOIN A MEDICARE DRUG PLAN?

If you are Medicare eligible and 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 creditable coverage. For example, if you go 19 months without creditable coverage, your premium may be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) the entire time you have Medicare prescription drug coverage.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR OPTIONS UNDER MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

If you have questions about your Medicare eligibility or how you can get help to pay for it, you can call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

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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](http://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, dial 1-877-KIDS-NOW, or visit [www.insurekidsnow.gov](http://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.askebsa.dol.gov](http://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 with paying your employer health plan premiums. The following list of states is current as of July 31, 2025. Contact your State for more information on eligibility.

### ALABAMA - Medicaid

Website: <http://myalhipp.com/>  
Phone: 1-855-692-5447

### ALASKA - Medicaid

The AK Health Insurance Premium Payment Program  
Website: <http://myakhipp.com/>  
Phone: 1-866-251-4861  
Email: [CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com](mailto:CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com)  
Medicaid Eligibility:  
<https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/default.aspx>

### ARKANSAS - Medicaid

Website: <http://myarhipp.com/>  
Phone: 1-855-MyARHIPP (1-855-692-7447)

### CALIFORNIA - Medicaid

Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program Website:  
<http://dhcs.ca.gov/hipp>  
Phone: 1-916-445-8322  
Fax: 1-916-440-5676  
Email: [hipp@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto: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: 1-800-221-3943/  
State Relay 711  
CHP+: <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/chp>  
CHP+ Customer Service: 1-800-359-1991/ State Relay 711  
Health Insurance Buy-In Program (HIBI):  
<https://www.mycohibi.com/>  
HIBI Customer Service: 1-855-692-6442

### FLORIDA - Medicaid

Website:  
<https://www.flmedicaidptprecovery.com/flmedicaidptprecovery.com/hipp/index.html>  
Phone: 1-877-357-3268

### GEORGIA - Medicaid

GA HIPP Website: <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp>  
Phone: 1-678-564-1162, Press 1  
GA CHIPRA Website:  
<https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/childrens-health-insurance-program-reauthorization-act-2009-chipra>  
Phone: 1-678-564-1162, Press 2

### INDIANA - Medicaid

Website: <https://www.in.gov/medicaid/> or  
<http://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/>  
Family and Social Services Administration  
Phone: 1-800-403-0864  
Member Services Phone: 1-800-457-4584

### IOWA – Medicaid & CHIP (Hawki)

Medicaid Website: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/medicaid>  
Medicaid Phone: 1-800-338-8366  
Hawki Website: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid/iowa-health-link/hawki>  
Hawki Phone: 1-800-257-8563  
HIPP Website: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/medicaid/plans-programs/fee-service/health-insurance-premium-payment-program>  
HIPP Phone: 1-888-346-9562

# Important Notices

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## **KANSAS - Medicaid**

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

Phone: 1-800-792-4884

HIPAA Phone: 1-800-967-4660

## **KENTUCKY - Medicaid**

Kentucky Integrated Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (KI-HIPP) Website:

<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.aspx>

Phone: 1-855-459-6328

Email: [KIHIPPProgram@ky.gov](mailto:KIHIPPProgram@ky.gov)

KCHIP Website: <https://kynect.ky.gov>

Phone: 1-877-524-4718

Kentucky Medicaid Website: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms>

## **LOUISIANA - Medicaid**

Website: [www.medicaid.la.gov](http://www.medicaid.la.gov) or [www.ldh.la.gov/la hipp](http://www.ldh.la.gov/la hipp)

Phone: 1-888-342-6207 (Medicaid hotline) or

1-855-618-5488 (LaHIPP)

## **MAINE - Medicaid**

Enrollment Website:

[https://www.mymaineconnection.gov/benefits/s/?language=en\\_US](https://www.mymaineconnection.gov/benefits/s/?language=en_US)

Phone: 1-800-442-6003 | TTY: Maine relay 711

Private Health Insurance Premium Webpage:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms>

Phone: 1-800-977-6740 | TTY: Maine relay 711

## **MASSACHUSETTS - Medicaid & CHIP**

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/masshealth/pa>

Phone: 1-800-862-4840 | TTY: 711

Email: [masspremassistance@accenture.com](mailto:masspremassistance@accenture.com)

## **MINNESOTA - Medicaid**

Website: <https://mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage/>

Phone: 1-800-657-3672

## **MISSOURI - Medicaid**

Website: <http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm>

Phone: 1-573-751-2005

## **MONTANA - Medicaid**

Website: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP>

Phone: 1-800-694-3084

Email: [HHSHIPPPProgram@mt.gov](mailto:HHSHIPPPProgram@mt.gov)

## **NEBRASKA - Medicaid**

Website: <http://www.accessnebraska.ne.gov/>

Phone: 1-855-632-7633

Lincoln: 1-402-473-7000

Omaha: 1-402-595-1178

## **NEVADA - Medicaid**

Medicaid Website: <https://dhcfp.nv.gov>

Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE - Medicaid**

Website: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program>

Phone: 1-603-271-5218

Toll free number for the HIPP program: 1-800-852-3345, ext. 15218

Email: [DHHS.ThirdPartyLiabi@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:DHHS.ThirdPartyLiabi@dhhs.nh.gov)

## **NEW JERSEY - Medicaid & CHIP**

Medicaid Website:

<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/>

Phone: 1-800-356-1561

CHIP Premium Assistance Phone: 1-609-631-2392

CHIP Website: <https://njfamilycare.dhs.state.nj.us/>

CHIP Phone: 1-800-701-0710 (TTY 711)

## **NEW YORK - Medicaid**

Website: [https://www.health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/](https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/)

Phone: 1-800-541-2831

## **NORTH CAROLINA - Medicaid**

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

Phone: 1-919-855-4100

## **NORTH DAKOTA - Medicaid**

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

Phone: 1-844-854-4825

## **OKLAHOMA - Medicaid and CHIP**

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

Phone: 1-888-365-3742

## **OREGON - Medicaid**

Website: <http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx>

Phone: 1-800-699-9075

## **PENNSYLVANIA - Medicaid & CHIP**

Website: <https://www.pa.gov/services/dhs/apply-for-medicaid-health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp>

Phone: 1-800-692-7462

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

CHIP Phone: 1-800-986-KIDS (5437)

## **RHODE ISLAND - Medicaid and CHIP**

Website: <http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/>

Phone: 1-855-697-4347, or 1-401-462-0311 (Direct Rlte Share Line)

## **SOUTH CAROLINA - Medicaid**

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

Phone: 1-888-549-0820

## **SOUTH DAKOTA - Medicaid**

Website: <http://dss.sd.gov>

Phone: 1-888-828-0059

# Important Notices

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## **TEXAS - Medicaid**

Website: <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/financial/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-program>  
Phone: 1-800-440-0493

## **UTAH - Medicaid & CHIP**

Utah's Premium Partnership for Health Insurance (UPP) Website:  
<https://medicaid.utah.gov/upp/>  
Email: [upp@utah.gov](mailto: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: 1-800-250-8427

## **VIRGINIA - Medicaid & CHIP**

Website: <https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/famis-select>  
Medicaid/CHIP Phone: 1-800-432-5924

## **WASHINGTON - Medicaid**

Website: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/>  
Phone: 1-800-562-3022

## **WEST VIRGINIA - Medicaid and CHIP**

Website: <https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/http://mywvhipp.com/>  
Medicaid Phone: 1-304-558-1700  
CHIP Toll-free phone: 1-855-MyWVHIPP (1-855-699-8447)

## **WISCONSIN - Medicaid & CHIP**

Website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm>  
Phone: 1-800-362-3002

## **WYOMING - Medicaid**

Website: <https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/programs-and-eligibility/>  
Phone: 1-800-251-1269

To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since July 31, 2025, or for more information on special enrollment rights, contact either:

## **U.S. Department of Labor**

Employee Benefits Security Administration  
[www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa)  
1-866-444-EBSA (3272)

## **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
[www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov)  
1-877-267-2323, Menu Option 4, ext. 61565