

2023 Important Plan Notices and Documents

MEDICARE PART D NOTICE

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

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

1. Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or join a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO) that offers prescription drug coverage. All Medicare drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.
2. Employer has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by our plans are, 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 15th through December 7th.

However, if you lose your current Creditable Prescription Drug Coverage, through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two (2) 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 employer coverage will be affected. See below for more information about what happens to your current coverage if you join a Medicare drug plan.

Since the existing prescription drug coverage under your employer is Creditable (e.g., as good as Medicare coverage), you can retain your existing prescription drug coverage and choose not to enroll in a Part D plan; or you can enroll in a Part D plan as a supplement to, or in lieu of, your existing prescription drug coverage.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current prescription drug 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 your employer 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 the office listed below for further information. **NOTE:** You'll get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this coverage through your employer 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 (800) MEDICARE or (800) 633-4227. TTY users should call (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 www.socialsecurity.gov or call them at (800) 772-1213 (TTY (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 you have maintained creditable coverage and, therefore, whether you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).

Date: October 1, 2023

Name of Entity: Santa Clara County Office of Education

Contact: Human Resources

Address: 1290 Ridder Park Drive MC 264
San Jose, CA 95131

Phone: (408) 453-6583

IMPORTANT PLAN INFORMATION

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE “NO SURPRISES” RULES

The “No Surprises” rules protect you from surprise medical bills in situations where you can’t easily choose a provider who’s in your health plan network. This is especially common in an emergency situation, when you may get care from out-of-network providers. Out-of-network providers or emergency facilities may ask you to sign a notice and consent form before providing certain services after you’re no longer in need of emergency care. These are called “post-stabilization services.” You shouldn’t get this notice and consent form if you’re getting emergency services other than post-stabilization services. You may also be asked to sign a notice and consent form if you schedule certain non-emergency services with an out-of-network provider at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center.

The notice and consent form informs you about your protections from unexpected medical bills, gives you the option to give up those protections and pay more for out-of-network care, and provides an estimate of what your out-of-network care might cost. You aren’t required to sign the form and shouldn’t sign the form if you didn’t have a choice of health care provider or facility before scheduling care. If you don’t sign, you may have to reschedule your care with a provider or facility in your health plan’s network.

[View a sample notice and consent form](#) (PDF).

This applies to you if you’re a participant, beneficiary, enrollee, or covered individual in a group health plan or group or individual health insurance coverage, including a Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) plan.

WOMEN'S HEALTH AND CANCER RIGHTS ACT

If you have had or are going to have a mastectomy, you may be entitled to certain benefits under the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (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; and
- 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). 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). If you would like more information on maternity benefits, call your plan administrator.

HIPAA NOTICE OF SPECIAL ENROLLMENT RIGHTS

If you decline enrollment in the health plan for you or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance or group health plan coverage, you or your dependents may be able to enroll in the health plan without waiting for the next open enrollment period if you:

- Lose other health insurance or group health plan coverage. You must request enrollment within 30 days after the loss of other coverage.
- Gain a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption. You must request health plan enrollment within 30 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.
- Lose Medicaid or Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage because you are no longer eligible. You must request medical plan enrollment within 60 days after the loss of such coverage.

If you request a change due to a special enrollment event within the 30-day timeframe, coverage will be effective the date of birth, adoption or placement for adoption. For all other events, coverage will be effective the first of the month following your request for enrollment. In addition, you may enroll in the health plan if you become eligible for a state premium assistance program under Medicaid or CHIP. You must request enrollment within 60 days after you gain eligibility for medical plan coverage. If you request this change, coverage will be effective the first of the month following your request for enrollment. Specific restrictions may apply, depending on federal and state law.

Note: If your dependent becomes eligible for a special enrollment right, you may add the dependent to your current coverage or change to another health plan.

HIPAA NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

We maintain the HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices describing how health information about you may be used and disclosed. You may obtain a copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices by contacting Human Resources.

NOTICE OF CHOICE OF PROVIDERS

HMO plans generally require the designation of a primary care provider. You have the right to designate any primary care provider who participates in their network and who is available to accept you or your family members. Until you make this designation, your carrier 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, contact your insurance carrier directly.

AVAILABILITY OF SUMMARY INFORMATION

As an employee, the health benefits provided by SCCOE represent a significant component of your compensation package. They also provide important protection for you and your family in the case of illness or injury. SCCOE offers a variety of benefit plans to eligible employees. The federal health care reform law requires that eligible members of an employer plan receive a Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC) for any medical and pharmacy plans available. The SBC is intended to provide important plan information to individuals, such as common benefit scenarios and definitions for frequently used terms. The SBC is intended to serve as an easy-to-read, informative summary of benefits available under a plan. SBCs and any revisions or amendments of the plans offered by SCCOE are available by contacting Human Resources.

Premium Assistance under Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

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

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

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

If you or your dependents are eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or CHIP, as well as eligible under your employer plan, your employer must allow you to enroll in your employer plan if you aren’t already enrolled. This is called a “special enrollment” opportunity, and **you must request coverage within 60 days of being determined eligible for premium assistance**. If you have questions about enrolling in your employer plan, contact the Department of Labor at www.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 January 31, 2023. 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 Medicaid Eligibility: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/medicaid/default.aspx
ARKANSAS – Medicaid
Website: http://myarhipp.com/ Phone: 1-855-MyARHIPP (855-692-7447)
CALIFORNIA – Medicaid
Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program 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: 1-800-221-3943 State Relay 711 CHP+: https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/child-health-plan-plus CHP+ Customer Service: 1-800-359-1991 State Relay 711 Health Insurance Buy-In Program (HIBI): https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/health-insurance-buy-program HIBI Customer Service: 1-855-692-6442
FLORIDA – Medicaid
Website: https://www.flmedicaidtprecovery.com/flmedicaidtprecovery.com/hipp/index.html Phone: 1-877-357-3268

GEORGIA – Medicaid

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

Phone: 678-564-1162, press 1

GA CHIPRA Website: <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/childrens-health-insurance-program-reauthorization-act-2009-chipra> | Phone: 678-564-1162, press 2

INDIANA – Medicaid

Healthy Indiana Plan for low-income adults 19-64 Website: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/hip/> | Phone: 1-877-438-4479

All other Medicaid Website: <https://www.in.gov/medicaid/> | Phone 1-800-457-4584

IOWA – Medicaid and CHIP (Hawki)

Medicaid Website: <https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members> | Medicaid Phone: 1-800-338-8366

Hawki Website: <http://dhs.iowa.gov/Hawki> | Hawki Phone: 1-800-257-8563

HIPP Website: <https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/medicaid-a-to-z/hipp> | HIPP Phone: 1-888-346-9562

KANSAS – Medicaid

Website: <https://www.kancare.ks.gov/> | Phone: 1-800-792-4884

KENTUCKY – Medicaid

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

Website: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.aspx> | Phone: 1-855-459-6328

Email: KIHIPPPROGRAM@ky.gov | KCHIP Website: <https://kidshealth.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx>

Phone: 1-877-524-4718 | Kentucky Medicaid Website: <https://chfs.ky.gov>

LOUISIANA – Medicaid

Website: www.medicicaid.la.gov or www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp

Phone: 1-888-342-6207 (Medicaid hotline) or 1-855-618-5488 (LaHIPP)

MAINE – Medicaid

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

Phone: 1-800-442-6003 | 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: 1-800-862-4840 | TTY: 617-886-8102

MINNESOTA – Medicaid

Website: <https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/children-and-families/health-care/health-care-programs/programs-and-services/other-insurance.jsp> | Phone: 1-800-657-3739

MISSOURI – Medicaid

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

MONTANA – Medicaid

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

Phone: 1-800-694-3084 | email: HSHIPPProgram@mt.gov

NEBRASKA – Medicaid

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

Phone: 1-855-632-7633 | Lincoln: 402-473-7000 | Omaha: 402-595-1178

NEVADA – Medicaid

Medicaid Website: <http://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: 603-271-5218 | Toll free number for the HIPP program: 1-800-852-3345, ext. 5218

NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP

Medicaid Website: <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/> | Phone: 609-631-2392

CHIP Website: <http://www.njfamilycare.org/index.html> | CHIP Phone: 1-800-701-0710

NEW YORK – Medicaid

Website: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/ | Phone: 1-800-541-2831

NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid

Website: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/> | Phone: 919-855-4100

NORTH DAKOTA – Medicaid

Website: <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/medicalserv/medicaid/> | 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> or <http://www.oregonhealthcare.gov/index-es.html>
Phone: 1-800-699-9075

PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid

Website: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/HIPP-Program.aspx> | Phone: 1-800-692-7462

RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid and CHIP

Website: <http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/> | Phone: 1-855-697-4347 or 401-462-0311 (Direct Rlite 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

TEXAS – Medicaid

Website: <http://gethipptexas.com/> | Phone: 1-800-440-0493

UTAH – Medicaid and CHIP

Medicaid Website: <https://medicaid.utah.gov/> | CHIP Website: <http://health.utah.gov/chip>
Phone: 1-877-543-7669

VERMONT – Medicaid

Website: <http://www.greenmountaincare.org/> | Phone: 1-800-250-8427

VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP

Website: <https://www.coverva.org/en/famis-select> or <https://www.coverva.org/en/hipp>
Medicaid Phone: 1-800-432-5924 | 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/> or <http://mywvhipp.com/>
Medicaid Phone: 304-558-1700 | CHIP Toll-free phone: 1-855-MyWVHIPP (1-855-699-8447)

WISCONSIN – Medicaid and 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 January 31, 2023, or for more information on special enrollment rights, contact either:

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

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

NOTICE OF CERTAIN DEADLINE EXTENSIONS AND SUMMARY OF MATERIAL MODIFICATIONS

Prepared for Santa Clara County Office of Education Participants

Effective October 1, 2023

This document provides notice of the potential expiration of the deadline relief that began on March 1, 2020 and an explanation of how that expiration will affect certain deadlines tolled under prior guidance applicable to ERISA plans. Specifically deadlines cannot be tolled for longer than one-year, **so depending on the date an individual action would have been required, some deadline extensions will be expiring on February 28, 2021. Whether deadlines are tolled or resume will depend on the specific date you were required to take action or provide notice to the plan.** This is a Summary of Material Modifications (“Summary”) to the extent those extensions applied to ERISA benefits under the (“the Plan”). You should take the time to read this Summary carefully and keep it with the Summary Plan Description (“SPD”) document that was previously provided to you. If you need another copy of the SPD or if you have any questions regarding these changes to the Plan, please contact your HR administrator.

Notice of Expiration of Certain Deadline Relief and Summary of Material Modifications

The end of the National Emergency and Public Health Emergency will impact the expiration of many rules stemming from the COVID-19 federal emergency declarations. Information below summarizes the timing of when important rules will be phased out.

On April 28, 2020 Multi-Agency guidance extended certain deadlines that apply to group health plans that fall within the COVID-19 outbreak period beginning March 1, 2020. Those deadlines included and were limited to the following:

- The 30-day period to request special enrollment under HIPAA (or 60-day period as applicable to CHIP enrollment requests);
 - employees, spouses, and new dependents are allowed to enroll upon marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption;
 - employees and dependents are allowed to enroll if they had declined coverage due to other health coverage and then lose eligibility or lose all employer contributions towards active coverage;
 - employees and their dependents are allowed to enroll upon loss of coverage under a state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or Medicaid or who are eligible to receive premium assistance under those programs;

- The 60-day election period for COBRA continuation coverage;
- The deadline for making COBRA premium payments;
- The 60-day deadline for individuals to notify a plan of a COBRA qualifying event or determination of disability;
- The deadline for individuals to file an ERISA benefit claim under the plan's claims procedure (including a H-FSA run out period deadline that ends during the outbreak period); or
- The deadline for claimants to file an appeal of an adverse benefit determination, a request for an external review, and to file information related to a request for external review for an ERISA plan.

COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE

You and/or your dependents may have the right to continue coverage after you lose eligibility under the terms of our health plan. Upon enrollment, you and your dependents receive a COBRA Initial Notice that outlines the circumstances under which continued coverage is available and your obligations to notify the plan when you or your dependents experience a qualifying event. Please review this notice carefully to make sure you understand your rights and obligations.

ACA Disclaimer

This offer of coverage may disqualify you from receiving government subsidies for an Exchange plan even if you choose not to enroll. To be subsidy eligible you would have to establish that this offer is unaffordable for you, meaning that the required contribution for employee only coverage under our base plan exceeds 9.12% in 2023 of your modified adjusted household income.