IMPORTANT BENEFITS NOTICES FOR PARTICIPANTS

The following notices are provided for your information and as required by federal law. In the event that additional disclosures are required after that time, the additional disclosure will be provided to you separately. This summary does not address specific state laws, which may be more expansive than federal law, and therefore you may have certain additional rights under your state law that are not addressed here.

If you have any questions about any of these notices or information, please contact:

Now Optics Benefits
1615 S. Congress Ave. Suite 105, Delray Beach, FL 33445
561-720-6429

For details on the benefit and claims review and adjudication procedures for each plan, please refer to the plan's Evidence of Coverage. If there are any discrepancies between benefits included in this summary and the Evidence of Coverage or Summary Plan Description/Plan Document, the Evidence of Coverage or Summary Plan Description/Plan Document will prevail.

The information in these notices is current as of September 2024 and is subject to change at any time.

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[1]Indicates that this event is also a qualified "Change in Status"
[2]Indicates this event is also a HIPAA Special Enrollment Right
[3]Indicates that this event is also a COBRA Qualifying Event

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Women's Health & Cancer Rights Act

The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act (WHCRA) requires group health plans to make certain benefits available to participants who have undergone or who are going to have a mastectomy. In particular, a plan must offer mastectomy patients benefits 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.

Your plans comply with these requirements.

Newborns' and Mothers' Rights

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 or 48 hours (or 96 hours).

Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act Non-Discrimination Requirements

Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) prohibits group health plans and health insurance issuers from discriminating against individuals in eligibility and continued eligibility for benefits and in individual premium or contribution rates based on health factors.

These health factors include: health status, medical condition (including both physical and mental illnesses), claims experience, receipt of health care, medical history, genetic information, evidence of insurability (including conditions arising out of acts of domestic violence and participation in activities such as motorcycling, snowmobiling, all-terrain vehicle riding, horseback riding, skiing, and other similar activities), and disability.

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, HIPAA Special Enrollment Rights require your plan to allow you and/or your dependents to enroll in your employer's plans (except dental and vision plans elected separately from your medical plans) if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage (or if the employer stopped contributing towards your or your dependents' other coverage). However, you must request enrollment within 30 days (60 days if the lost coverage was Medicaid or Healthy Families) 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.

Other midyear election changes may be permitted under your plan (refer to "Change in Status" section). To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact your Human Resources Representative.

"HIPAA Special Enrollment Opportunities" include:

- COBRA (or state continuation coverage) exhaustion
- Loss of other coverage (1)
- Acquisition of a new spouse or dependent through marriage (1), adoption (1), placement for adoption (1) or birth (1)
- Loss of state Children's Health Insurance Program coverage (e.g., Healthy Families) (60-day notice) (1)
- Employee or dependents become eligible for state Premium Assistance Subsidy Program (60-day notice)

"Change in Status" Permitted Midyear Election Changes

Due to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations, in order to be eligible to take your premium contribution or contribute to a flexible spending account using pre-tax dollars, your election must be irrevocable for the entire plan year. As a result, your enrollment in the medical, dental, and vision plans or declination of coverage when you are first eligible, will remain in place until the next Open Enrollment period, unless you have an approved "change in status" as defined by the IRS and if provided for in your plan.

Examples of permitted "change in status" events include:

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- Change in legal marital status (e.g., marriage (2), divorce or legal separation)
- Change in number of dependents (e.g., birth (2), adoption (2) or death)
- Change in eligibility of a child
- Change in your / your spouse's / your state registered / unregistered / domestic partner's employment status (e.g., reduction in hours affecting eligibility or change in employment)
- A substantial change in your / your spouse's / your state registered / unregistered / state registered and unregistered domestic partner's benefits coverage
- A relocation that impacts network access
- Enrollment in state-based insurance Exchange
- Medicare Part A or B enrollment
- Qualified Medical Child Support Order or other judicial decree
- A dependent's eligibility ceases resulting in a loss of coverage (3)
- Loss of other coverage (2)
- Change in employment status where you have a reduction in hours to an average below 30 hours of service per week, but continue to be eligible for benefits, and you intend to enroll in another plan that provides Minimum Essential Coverage that is effective no later than the first day of the second month following the date of revocation of your employer sponsored coverage
- You enroll, or intend to enroll, in a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) through the State Marketplace (i.e. Exchange) and it is effective no later than the day immediately following the revocation of your employer sponsored coverage.

You must notify Human Resources within 30 days of any of the above changes in status, with the exception of the following which requires notice within 60 days:

- Loss of eligibility or enrollment in Medicaid or state health insurance programs (e.g., Healthy Families)

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LEGAL INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR PLANS

HIPAA Privacy Notice

Notice of Health Information Privacy Practices

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

This notice is required by law under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). One of its primary purposes is to make certain that information about your health is handled with special respect for your privacy. HIPAA includes numerous provisions designed to maintain the privacy and confidentiality of your protected health information (PHI). PHI is health information that contains identifiers, such as your name, address, social security number, or other information that identifies you.

Our Pledge Regarding Health Information

- We understand that health information about you and your health is personal.
- We are committed to protecting health information about you.
- This notice will tell you the ways in which we may use and disclose health information about you.
- We also describe your rights and certain obligations we have regarding the use and disclosure of health information.

We are Required by Law to

- Make sure that health information that identifies you is kept private;
- Give you this notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to health information about you;
- Follow the terms of the notice that are currently in effect.

The Plan will Use Your Health Information for

Treatment: The plan may use your health information to assist your health care providers (doctors, pharmacies, hospitals, and others) to assist in your treatment. For example, the plan may provide a treating physician with the name of another treating provider to obtain records or information needed for your treatment.

Regular Operations: We may use information in health records to review our claims experience and to make determinations with respect to the benefit options that we offer to employees.

Business Associates: There are some services provided in our organization through contracts with business associates. Business associate agreements are maintained with insurance carriers and other third-parties who provide services to the plan. Business associates with access to your information must adhere to a contract requiring compliance with HIPAA privacy and security rules.

As Required by Law: We will disclose health information about you when required to do so by federal, state or local law.

Law Enforcement: We may disclose your health information for law enforcement purposes, or in response to a valid subpoena or other judicial or administrative request.

Public Health: We may also use and disclose your health information to assist with public health activities (for example, reporting to a federal agency) or health oversight activities (for example, in a government investigation).

Your Rights Regarding Your Health Information

Although your health record is the physical property of the entity that compiled it, the information belongs to you. You have the right to:

- Request a restriction on certain uses and disclosures of your information, where concerning a service already paid for;
- Obtain a paper copy of the Notice of Health Information Privacy Practices by requesting it from the plan privacy officer;
- Inspect and obtain a copy of your health information;
- Request an amendment to your health information;
- Obtain an accounting of disclosures of your health information;
- Request communications of your health information be sent in a different way or to a different place than usual (for example, you could request that the envelope be marked "Confidential" or that we send it to your work address rather than your home address);
- Revoke in writing your authorization to use or disclose health information except to the extent that action has already been taken, in reliance on that authorization;
- Authorize someone to exercise your rights and make choices about your health information (e.g., a medical power of attorney).

The Plan’s Responsibilities

The plan is required to:

- Maintain the privacy of your PHI;
- Provide you with a notice as to our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to information we collect and maintain about you;

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- Abide by the terms of this notice;
- Notify you if we are unable to agree to a requested restriction, amendment or other request;
- Notify you of any breaches of your personal PHI within 60 days.
- Accommodate any reasonable request you may have to communicate PHI by alternative means or at alternative locations.

The plan will not use or disclose your PHI without your consent or authorization, except as provided by law or described in this notice.

The plan reserves the right to change our health privacy practices. Should we change our privacy practices in a material way, we will make a new version of our notice available to you.

For More Information or to Report a Problem

- If you have questions or would like additional information, or if you would like to make a request to inspect, copy, or amend health information, or for an accounting of disclosures, contact the plan privacy officer. All requests must be submitted in writing.
- If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you can file a formal complaint with the plan privacy officer; or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights by sending a letter to Centralized Case Management Operations, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 509F HHH Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20201, calling 1-877-696-6775, or visiting **https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/filing-a-complaint/index.html**. You will not be penalized or retaliated against for filing a complaint.

Other Uses of Health Information

Other uses and disclosures of health information not covered by this notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written authorization. If you authorize us to use or disclose health information about you, you may revoke that authorization, in writing, at any time. If you revoke your authorization we will no longer use or disclose health information about you for the reasons covered by your written authorization. You understand that we are unable to take back any disclosures we have already made with your authorization, and that we are required to retain our records of the payment activities that we provided to you.

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Important Information on How Health Care Reform Affects Your Plan

Primary Care Provider Designations

For plans and issuers that require or allow for the designation of primary care providers by participants or beneficiaries:

- Your HMO generally requires the designation of a primary care provider. You have the right to designate any primary care provider who participates in our network and who is available to accept you or your family members. For information on how to select a primary care provider, and for a list of the participating primary care providers, contact your Human Resources office.

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

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

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

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

Grandfathered Plans

If your group health plan is grandfathered then the following will apply. As permitted by the Affordable Care Act, a grandfathered health plan can preserve certain basic health coverage that was already in effect when that law was enacted. Being a grandfathered health plan means that your plan may not include certain consumer protections of the Affordable Care Act that apply to other plans, for example, the requirement for the provision of preventive health services without any cost sharing. However, grandfathered health plans must comply with certain other consumer protections in the Affordable Care Act, for example, the elimination of lifetime limits on benefits.

Questions regarding which protections apply and which protections do not apply to a grandfathered health plan and what might cause a plan to change from grandfathered health plan status can be directed to the plan administrator. You may also contact the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor at 1-866-444-3272 or https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa/laws-and-regulations/laws/affordable-care-act/for-employers-and-advisers/grandfathered-healthplans. This website has a table summarizing which protections do and do not apply to grandfathered health plans.

Prohibition on Excess Waiting Periods

Group health plans may not apply a waiting period that exceeds 90 days. A waiting period is defined as the period that must pass before coverage for an eligible employee or his or her dependent becomes effective under the Plan. State law may require shorter waiting periods for insured group health plans. California law requires fully-insured plans to comply with the more restrictive waiting period limitation of no more than 60 days.

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Important Information about COBRA Continuation Coverage Rights and Other Health Coverage Alternatives

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, as well as other health coverage options that may be available to you, including coverage through Medicaid or the Health Insurance Marketplace®. To sign up for Marketplace coverage, visit www.HealthCare.gov or call 1-800-318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325). People in most states use www.HealthCare.gov to apply for and enroll in health coverage; if your state has its own Marketplace platform, you can find contact information here: www.HealthCare.gov/marketplace-in-your-state/.** 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.

Please read the information in this notice very carefully before you make your decision. If you choose to elect COBRA continuation coverage, you should use the Election Form provided by the Plan.

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.

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); 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 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; or
- The child stops being eligible for coverage under the Plan as a "dependent child."

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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; or
- 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.

How is COBRA continuation coverage provided?

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

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

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

Disability extension of 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage

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

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

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

Are there other coverage options besides COBRA Continuation Coverage?

Yes. Instead of enrolling in COBRA continuation coverage, there may be other coverage options for you and your family through the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicare, 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**. You will not be eligible for a premium tax credit, or advance payments of the premium tax credit, for your Marketplace coverage for months you are enrolled in COBRA continuation coverage and you may not be eligible for months during which you remain an employee but are eligible for COBRA continuation coverage with premium assistance because of a reduction of hours. If you're eligible for Medicare, consider signing up during its special enrollment period to avoid a coverage gap when your COBRA coverage ends and a late enrollment penalty.

You should compare your other coverage options with COBRA continuation coverage and choose the coverage that is best for you. For example, if you move to other coverage you may pay more out of pocket than you would under COBRA because the new coverage may impose a new deductible. Also, keep in mind that if you elect COBRA continuation coverage with premium assistance, then you may qualify for a special enrollment period to enroll in Marketplace coverage when your premium assistance ends. You may use the special enrollment period to enroll in Marketplace coverage with a tax credit if you end your COBRA continuation coverage when your premium assistance ends and you are otherwise eligible.

When you lose job-based health coverage, it's important that you choose carefully between COBRA continuation coverage and other coverage options, because once you've made your choice, it can be difficult or impossible to switch to another coverage option until the next available open enrollment period.

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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 8-month special enrollment period[1] to sign up for Medicare Part A or B, beginning on the earlier of

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

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

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

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

If you have questions

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

Contact the Plan Administrator for more information

[1] https://www.medicare.gov/sign-up-change-plans/how-do-i-get-parts-a-b/part-a-part-b-sign-up-periods

Separate USERRA Rights for Military Service: The COBRA health care coverage continuation rights discussed above are separate from USERRA health care coverage continuation rights for qualifying military service, although they may run concurrently.

If you leave employment to enter military service, you should contact Human Resources to determine whether you also have USERRA health care coverage continuation rights.

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Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA), Notice of Right to Continued Coverage under USERRA

Right to Continue Coverage

Under the Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA), you (the employee) have the right to continue the coverage that you (and your covered dependents, if any) had under the Company Medical Plan if the following conditions are met:

- You are absent from work due to service in the uniformed services (defined below);
- You were covered under the Plan at the time your absence from work began; and
- You (or an appropriate officer of the uniformed services) provided your employer with advance notice of your absence from work (you are excused from meeting this condition if compliance is precluded by military necessity or is otherwise impossible or unreasonable under the circumstances).

How to Continue Coverage

If the conditions are met, you (or your authorized representative) may elect to continue your coverage (and the coverage of your covered dependents).

What Happens if You do not Elect to Continue Coverage?

If you fail to submit a timely, completed Election Form as instructed or do not make a premium payment within the required time, you will lose your continuation rights under the Plan, unless compliance with these requirements is precluded by military necessity or is otherwise impossible or unreasonable under the circumstances.

If you do not elect continuation coverage, your coverage (and the coverage of your covered dependents, if any) under the Plan ends effective the end of the month in which you stop working due to your leave for uniformed service.

Premium for Continuing Your Coverage

The premium that you must pay to continue your coverage depends on your period of service in the uniformed services. Contact Human Resources for more details. If the entire length of the leave is less than 31 days, you will not be required to pay any more than the portion you paid before the leave. If your leave continues beyond 30 days, you are required to pay your portion of the premium, Employer's portion of the premium and a 2% administrative fee in order to retain coverage. If you take a military leave, but your coverage under the Plan is terminated — for instance, because you do not elect the extended coverage — you will be treated as if you had not taken a military leave upon reemployment when determining whether an exclusion or waiting period applies upon your reinstatement into the Plan.

Length of Time Coverage Can Be Continued

If elected, continuation coverage can last 24 months from the date on which employee's leave for uniformed service began. However, coverage will automatically terminate earlier if one of the following events takes place:

- A premium is not paid in full within the required time;
- You fail to return to work or apply for reemployment within the time required under USERRA (see below) following the completion of your service in the uniformed services; or
- You lose your rights under USERRA as a result of a dishonorable discharge or other conduct specified in USERRA.

We will not provide advance notice to you when your continuation coverage terminates. Under circumstances in which COBRA continuation coverage rights also apply (see the section entitled "Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985" below), an election to continue coverage during a military leave will be an election to take COBRA, and the two will run concurrently.

Reporting to Work / Applying for Reemployment

Your right to continue coverage under USERRA will end if you do not notify Human Resources of your intent to return to work within the timeframe required under USERRA following the completion of your service in the uniformed services by either reporting to work (if your uniformed service was for less than 31 days) or applying for reemployment (if your uniformed service was for more than 30 days). The time for returning to work depends on the period of uniformed service, as follows:

Period of Uniformed Service	Report to Work Requirement

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Less than 31 days	The beginning of the first regularly scheduled work period on the day following the completion of your service, after allowing for safe travel home and an eight-hour rest period, or if that is unreasonable or impossible through no fault of your own, then as soon as is possible
31–180 days	Submit an application for reemployment within 14 days after completion of your service or, if that is unreasonable or impossible through no fault of your own, then as soon as is possible
181 days or more	Submit an application for reemployment within 90 days after completion of your service
Any period if for purposes of an examination for fitness to perform uniformed service	Report by the beginning of the first regularly scheduled work period on the day following the completion of your service, after allowing for safe travel home and an eight-hour rest period, or if that is unreasonable or impossible through no fault of your own, as soon as is possible
Any period if you were hospitalized for or are convalescing from an injury or illness incurred or aggravated as a result of your service	Report or submit an application for reemployment as above (depending on length of service period) except that time periods begin when you have recovered from your injuries or illness rather than upon completion of your service. Maximum period for recovering is limited to two years from completion of service but may be extended if circumstances beyond your control make it impossible or unreasonable for you to report to work within the above time periods

Definitions

For you to be entitled to continued coverage under USERRA, your absence from work must be due to "service in the uniformed services."

- "Uniformed services" means the Armed Forces, the Army National Guard, and the Air National Guard when an individual is engaged in active duty for training, inactive duty training, or full-time National Guard duty (i.e., pursuant to orders issued under federal law), the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, and any other category of persons designated by the President in time of war or national emergency
- "Service in the uniformed services" or "service" means the performance of duty on a voluntary or involuntary basis in the uniformed services under competent authority, including active duty, active and inactive duty for training, National Guard duty under federal statute, a period for which a person is absent from employment for an examination to determine his or her fitness to perform any of these duties, and a period for which a person is absent from employment to perform certain funeral honors duty. It also includes certain service by intermittent disaster response appointees of the National Disaster Medical System(NDMS)

Employee Rights & Responsibilities under the Family Medical Leave Act

Basic Leave Entitlement

Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job protected leave to eligible employees for the following reasons:

- For incapacity due to pregnancy, prenatal medical care or child birth;
- To care for the employee's child after birth, or placement for adoption or foster care;
- To care for the employee's spouse, child or parent, who has a serious health condition; or
- For serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the employee's job.

Military Family Leave Entitlements

Eligible employees whose spouse, son, daughter or parent is on covered active duty or call to covered active duty status may use their 12-week leave entitlement to address certain qualifying exigencies. Qualifying exigencies may include attending certain military events, arranging for alternative childcare, addressing certain financial and legal arrangements, attending certain counseling sessions, and attending post- deployment reintegration briefings.

FMLA also includes a special leave entitlement that permits eligible employees to take up to 26 weeks of leave to care for a covered service member during a single 12 month period. A covered service member is:
(1) a current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness; or (2) a veteran who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable at any time during the five-year period prior to the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered veteran, and who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a serious injury or illness. (4)

Benefits & Protections

During FMLA leave, the employer must maintain the employee's health coverage under any "group health plan" on the same terms as

if the employee had continued to work. Upon return from FMLA leave, most employees must be restored to their original or equivalent positions with equivalent pay, benefits, and other employment terms.

If you take a leave of absence that qualifies as a family or medical leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (an "FMLA leave"), coverage for you and your family members continues as long as you continue paying your portion of the cost of coverage during the FMLA leave. If a portion of your leave is a paid leave, the cost of coverage will continue to be deducted from your pay on a pre-tax basis. If a portion of your leave is unpaid (you are not receiving pay from Employer but may be receiving disability benefits from the insurance company), you will receive a letter outlining the portion of your leave that is unpaid and how to submit payment for insurance coverage. These payments must be made on an after-tax basis, since you will not have any pay from which payments can be deducted. For additional information on FMLA leaves, please contact your Employer.

Use of FMLA leave cannot result in the loss of any employment benefit that accrued prior to the start of an employee's leave.

Eligibility Requirements

Employees are eligible if they have worked for a covered employer for at least 12 months, have 1,250 hours of service in the previous 12 months[(5)], and if at least 50 employees are employed by the employer within 75 miles of their worksite.

Definition of Serious Health Condition

A serious health condition is an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves either an overnight stay in a medical care facility, or continuing treatment by a health care provider for a condition that either prevents the employee from performing the functions of the employee's job, or prevents the qualified family member from participating in school or other daily activities.

Subject to certain conditions, the continuing treatment requirement may be met by a period of incapacity of more than 3 consecutive calendar days combined with at least two visits to a health care provider or one visit and a regimen of continuing treatment, or incapacity due to pregnancy, or incapacity due to a chronic condition. Other conditions may meet the definition of continuing treatment.

Use of Leave

An employee does not need to use this leave entitlement in one block. Leave can be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically necessary. Employees must make reasonable efforts to schedule leave for planned medical treatment so as not to unduly disrupt the employer's operations. Leave due to qualifying exigencies may also be taken on an intermittent basis.

Substitution of Paid Leave for Unpaid Leave

Employees may choose or employers may require use of accrued paid leave while taking FMLA leave. In order to use paid leave for FMLA leave, employees must comply with the employer's normal paid leave policies.

Employee Responsibilities

Employees must provide 30 days advance notice of the need to take FMLA leave when the need is foreseeable. When 30 days' notice is not possible, the employee must provide notice as soon as practicable and generally must comply with an employer's normal call-in procedures.

Employees must provide sufficient information for the employer to determine if the leave may qualify for FMLA protection and the anticipated timing and duration of the leave. Sufficient information may include that the employee is unable to perform job functions; the family member is unable to perform daily activities, the need for hospitalization or continuing treatment by a health care provider; or circumstances supporting the need for military family leave. Employees also must inform the employer if the requested leave is for a reason for which FMLA leave was previously taken or certified. Employees also may be required to provide a certification and periodic recertification supporting the need for leave.

Employer Responsibilities

Covered employers must inform employees requesting leave whether they are eligible under FMLA. If they are, the notice must specify any additional information required as well as the employees' rights and responsibilities. If they are not eligible, the employer must provide a reason for the ineligibility.

Covered employers must inform employees if leave will be designated as FMLA-protected and the amount of leave counted against the employee's leave entitlement. If the employer determines that the leave is not FMLA protected, the employer must notify the employee.

Unlawful Acts by Employers

FMLA makes it unlawful for any employer to:

- Interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of any right provided under FMLA;
- Discharge or discriminate against any person for opposing any practice made unlawful by FMLA or for involvement in any proceeding under or relating to FMLA.

LEGAL INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR PLANS

Enforcement

An employee may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor or may bring a private lawsuit against an employer.

FMLA does not affect any Federal or State law prohibiting discrimination or supersede any State or local law or collective bargaining agreement which provides greater family or medical leave rights.

FMLA section 109 (29 U.S.C. § 2619) requires FMLA covered employers to post the text of this notice. Regulations 29 C.F.R. § 825.300(a) may require additional disclosures.

For additional information: (866) 4US-WAGE ((866) 487-9243) TYY: (877) 889-5627 www.wagehour.dol.gov

Footnotes:

[1]Indicates that this event is also a qualified “Change in Status”

[2]Indicates this event is also a HIPAA Special Enrollment Right

[3]Indicates that this event is also a COBRA Qualifying Event

[4]The FMLA definitions of “serious injury or illness” for current service members and veterans are distinct from the FMLA definition of “serious health condition”

[5]Special hours of service eligibility requirements apply to airline flight crew employees.

LEGAL INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR PLANS

Wellness Programs

If your employer offers a voluntary wellness program available to all employees which offers a reward for participation in a health-related activity or for achieving a specified health outcome, the program shall be administered according to federal rules permitting employer-sponsored wellness programs that seek to improve employee health or prevent disease, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, as applicable, among others.

If you are unable to participate in any of the health-related activities or achieve any of the health outcomes required to earn an incentive, you may be entitled to a reasonable accommodation or an alternative standard. You may request a reasonable accommodation or an alternative standard by contacting the plan's contact indicated at the beginning these notices.

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

Your health information will not be sold, exchanged, transferred, or otherwise disclosed except to the extent permitted by law to carry out specific activities related to the wellness program, and you will not be asked or required to waive the confidentiality of your health information as a condition of participating in the wellness program or receiving an incentive. Anyone who receives your information for purposes of providing you services as part of the wellness program will abide by the same confidentiality requirements. The only individual(s) who will receive your personally identifiable health information are those who need such information in order to provide you with services under the wellness program.

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

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

If you have questions or concerns regarding the wellness program this notice, or about protections against discrimination and retaliation, please contact the plan's contact indicated at the beginning these notices.

LEGAL INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR PLANS

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 July 31, 2024. Contact your State for more information on eligibility.

ALABAMA – Medicaid	ALASKA – Medicaid
Website: http://myalhipp.com/ Phone: 1-855-692-5447	The AK Health Insurance Premium Payment Program Website: http://myakhipp.com/ Phone: 1-866-251-4861 Email: CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com Medicaid Eligibility: https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/default.aspx
ARKANSAS – Medicaid	**CALIFORNIA – Medicaid**
Website: http://myarhipp.com/ Phone: 1-855-MyARHIPP (855-692-7447)	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+)	**FLORIDA – Medicaid**

LEGAL INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR PLANS

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/child-health-plan-plus 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	Website: https://www.flmedicaidtplrecovery.com/flmedicaidtplrecovery.com/hipp/index.html Phone: 1-877-357-3268
GEORGIA – Medicaid	**INDIANA – 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	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: 1-800-403-0864 Member Services Phone: 1-800-457-4584
IOWA – Medicaid and CHIP (Hawki)	**KANSAS – Medicaid**
Medicaid Website: Iowa Medicaid | Health & Human Services Medicaid Phone: 1-800-338-8366 Hawki Website: Hawki - Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa | Health & Human Services Hawki Phone: 1-800-257-8563 HIPP Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) | Health & Human Services (iowa.gov) HIPP Phone: 1-888-346-9562	Website: https://www.kancare.ks.gov/ Phone: 1-800-792-4884 HIPP Phone: 1-800-967-4660
KENTUCKY – Medicaid	**LOUISIANA – Medicaid**

LEGAL INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR PLANS

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: KIHIPP.PROGRAM@ky.gov KCHIP Website: https://kynect.ky.gov Phone: 1-877-524-4718 Kentucky Medicaid Website: https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms	Website: www.medicaid.la.gov or www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp Phone: 1-888-342-6207 (Medicaid hotline) or 1-855-618-5488 (LaHIPP)
MAINE – Medicaid	**MASSACHUSETTS – Medicaid and CHIP**
Enrollment Website: 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	Website: https://www.mass.gov/masshealth/pa Phone: 1-800-862-4840 TTY: 711 Email: masspremassistance@accenture.com
MINNESOTA – Medicaid	**MISSOURI – Medicaid**
Website: https://mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage/ Phone: 1-800-657-3672	Website: http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm Phone: 573-751-2005

MONTANA – Medicaid	**NEBRASKA – Medicaid**
Website: http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP Phone: 1-800-694-3084 Email: HHSHIPPProgram@mt.gov	Website: http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov Phone: 1-855-632-7633 Lincoln: 402-473-7000 Omaha: 402-595-1178

LEGAL INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR PLANS

NEVADA – Medicaid	NEW HAMPSHIRE – Medicaid
Medicaid Website: http://dhcfp.nv.gov Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900	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. 15218 Email: DHHS.ThirdPartyLiabi@dhhs.nh.gov
NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP	**NEW YORK – Medicaid**
Medicaid Website: http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ dmahs/clients/medicaid/ Phone: 1-800-356-1561 CHIP Premium Assistance Phone: 609-631-2392 CHIP Website: http://www.njfamilycare.org/index.html CHIP Phone: 1-800-701-0710 (TTY: 711)	Website: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/ Phone: 1-800-541-2831
NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid	**NORTH DAKOTA – Medicaid**
Website: https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/ Phone: 919-855-4100	Website: https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare Phone: 1-844-854-4825
OKLAHOMA – Medicaid and CHIP	**OREGON – Medicaid and CHIP**
Website: http://www.insureoklahoma.org Phone: 1-888-365-3742	Website: http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx Phone: 1-800-699-9075
PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid and CHIP	**RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid and CHIP**
Website: https://www.pa.gov/en/services/dhs/apply-for-medicaid-health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp.html Phone: 1-800-692-7462 CHIP Website: Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (pa.gov) CHIP Phone: 1-800-986-KIDS (5437)	Website: http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/ Phone: 1-855-697-4347, or 401-462-0311 (Direct RIte Share Line)

LEGAL INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR PLANS

SOUTH CAROLINA – Medicaid	SOUTH DAKOTA - Medicaid
Website: https://www.scdhhs.gov Phone: 1-888-549-0820	Website: http://dss.sd.gov Phone: 1-888-828-0059

TEXAS – Medicaid	UTAH – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program | Texas Health and Human Services Phone: 1-800-440-0493	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	**VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP**
Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program | Department of Vermont Health Access Phone: 1-800-250-8427	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: 1-800-432-5924
WASHINGTON – Medicaid	**WEST VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP**
Website: https://www.hca.wa.gov/ Phone: 1-800-562-3022	Website: https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/ http://mywvhipp.com/ Medicaid Phone: 304-558-1700 CHIP Toll-free phone: 1-855-MyWVHIPP (1-855-699-8447)
WISCONSIN – Medicaid and CHIP	**WYOMING – Medicaid**

LEGAL INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR PLANS

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

LEGAL INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR PLANS

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, and/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, such as a copayment, coinsurance, and/or a deductible. You may have other costs or have to pay the entire bill if you see a provider or visit a health care facility that isn't in your health plan's network.

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

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

You are 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 the provider or facility 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.

LEGAL INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR PLANS

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

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

- You are only responsible for paying your share of the cost (like the copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles 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.

- Your health plan generally 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 think you've been wrongly billed, you may contact the No Surprises Help Desk (NSHD) at http://www.cms.gov/nosurprises/consumers or call 1-800-985-3059 for more information about your rights under federal law. If your plan is subject to state mandates or has opted into them, you can contact your state department of insurance for the most up-to-date information or if you think you've been wrongly billed. You may also refer to plain language summaries of state mandates regarding balancing billing from various entities, such as https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/maps-and-interactives/2022/feb/map-no-surprises-act or https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/surprise-and-balance-billing-state-policy-options.aspx.

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