

# REQUIRED NOTICES

## Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage

### PART A: GENERAL INFORMATION

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

#### What is the Health Insurance Marketplace?

The Marketplace is designed to help you find health insurance that meets your needs and fits your budget. The Marketplace offers “one-stop shopping” to find and compare private health insurance options in your geographic area.

#### Can I Save Money on my Health Insurance Premiums in the Marketplace?

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

#### Does Employment-Based Health Coverage Affect Eligibility for Premium Savings through the Marketplace?

Yes. If you have an offer of health coverage from your employer that is considered affordable for you and meets certain minimum value standards, you will not be eligible for a tax credit, or advance payment of the tax credit, for your Marketplace coverage and may wish to enroll in your employment-based health plan. However, you may be eligible for a tax credit, and advance payments of the credit that lowers your monthly premium, or a reduction in certain cost-sharing, if your employer does not offer coverage to you at all or does not offer coverage that is considered affordable for you or meet minimum value standards. If your share of the premium cost of all plans offered to you through your employment is more than 9.12%<sup>1</sup> of your annual household income, or if the coverage through your employment does not meet the “minimum value” standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit, and advance payment of the credit, if you do not enroll in the employment-based health coverage. For family members of the employee, coverage is considered affordable if the employee’s cost of premiums for the lowest-cost plan that would cover all family members does not exceed 9.12% of the employee’s household income.<sup>1 2</sup>

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

#### When Can I Enroll in Health Insurance Coverage through the Marketplace?

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

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

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

To learn more, visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) or call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596. TTY users can call 1-855-889-4325.

#### What about Alternatives to Marketplace Health Insurance Coverage?

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

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

### **How Can I Get More Information?**

For more information about your coverage offered through your employment, please check your health plan's summary plan description or contact Brian Holsten at [HR@bluestonemd.com](mailto:HR@bluestonemd.com). The Marketplace can help you evaluate your coverage options, including your eligibility for coverage through the Marketplace and its cost. Please visit [HealthCare.gov](https://HealthCare.gov) for more information, including an online application for health insurance coverage and contact information for a Health Insurance Marketplace in your area.

1. Indexed annually; see [irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/rp-22-34.pdf](https://irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/rp-22-34.pdf) for 2023.
2. An employer-sponsored or other employment-based health plan meets the "minimum value standard" if the plan's share of the total allowed benefit costs covered by the plan is no less than 60% of such costs. For purposes of eligibility for the premium tax credit, to meet the "minimum value standard," the health plan must also provide substantial coverage of both inpatient hospital services and physician services.

## **Special Enrollment Notice**

This notice is being provided to make certain that you understand your right to apply for group health coverage. You should read this notice even if you plan to waive health coverage at this time.

### **LOSS OF OTHER COVERAGE**

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

Example: You waived coverage under this Plan because you were covered under a plan offered by your spouse's employer. Your spouse terminates employment. If you notify your employer within 30 days of the date coverage ends, you and your eligible dependents may apply for coverage under this Plan.

### **MARRIAGE, BIRTH OR ADOPTION**

If you have a new dependent as a result of a 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, or placement for adoption.

Example: When you were hired, you were single and chose not to elect health insurance benefits. One year later, you marry. You and your eligible dependents are entitled to enroll in this Plan. However, you must apply within 30 days from the date of your marriage.

### **MEDICAID OR CHIP**

If you or your dependents lose eligibility for coverage under Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or become eligible for a premium assistance subsidy under Medicaid or CHIP, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents. You must request enrollment within 60 days of the loss of Medicaid or CHIP coverage or the determination of eligibility for a premium assistance subsidy.

Example: When you were hired, your children received health coverage under CHIP and you did not enroll them in this Plan. Because of changes in your income, your children are no longer eligible for CHIP coverage. You may enroll them in this Plan if you apply within 60 days of the date of their loss of CHIP coverage.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE**

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, please contact: Brian Holsten at [HR@bluestone.com](mailto:HR@bluestone.com)

## Your Information. Your Rights. Our Responsibilities.

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

### YOUR RIGHTS

You have the right to:

- Get a copy of your health and claims records
- Correct your health and claims records
- Request confidential communication
- Ask us to limit the information we share
- Get a list of those with whom we've shared your information
- Get a copy of this privacy notice
- Choose someone to act for you
- File a complaint if you believe your privacy rights have been violated

### YOUR CHOICES

You have some choices in the way that we use and share information as we:

- Answer coverage questions from your family and friends
- Provide disaster relief
- Market our services and sell your information

### OUR USES AND DISCLOSURES

We may use and share your information as we:

- Help manage the health care treatment you receive
- Run our organization
- Pay for your health services
- Administer your health plan
- Help with public health and safety issues
- Do research
- Comply with the law
- Respond to organ and tissue donation requests and work with a medical examiner or funeral director
- Address workers' compensation, law enforcement, and other government requests
- Respond to lawsuits and legal actions

### YOUR RIGHTS

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

#### Get a copy of health and claims records

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

#### Ask us to correct health and claims records

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

#### Request confidential communications

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

#### Ask us to limit what we use or share

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

#### **Get a list of those with whom we've shared information**

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

#### **Get a copy of this privacy notice**

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

#### **Choose someone to act for you**

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

#### **File a complaint if you feel your rights are violated**

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

### **YOUR CHOICES**

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

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

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

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

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

- Marketing purposes
- Sale of your information

### **OUR USES AND DISCLOSURES**

#### **How do we typically use or share your health information?**

We typically use or share your health information in the following ways.

#### **Help manage the health care treatment you receive**

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

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

#### **Run our organization**

- We can use and disclose your information to run our organization and contact you when necessary.
- We are not allowed to use genetic information to decide whether we will give you coverage and the price of that coverage. This does not apply to long term care plans.

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

#### **Pay for your health services**

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

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

## **Administer your plan**

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

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

## **How else can we use or share your health information?**

We are allowed or required to share your information in other ways – usually in ways that contribute to the public good, such as public health and research. We have to meet many conditions in the law before we can share your information for these purposes.

For more information see: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-individuals/guidance-materials-for-consumers/index.html>

## **Help with public health and safety issues**

We can share health information about you for certain situations such as:

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

## **Do research**

We can use or share your information for health research.

## **Comply with the law**

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

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

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

## **Address workers' compensation, law enforcement, and other government requests**

We can use or share health information about you:

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

## **Respond to lawsuits and legal actions**

We can share health information about you in response to a court or administrative order, or in response to a subpoena.

## **OUR RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

For more information see: [www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/noticepp.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/noticepp.html).

## **CHANGES TO THE TERMS OF THIS NOTICE**

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

## **OTHER INSTRUCTIONS FOR NOTICE**

- 1/1/2026
- Brian Holsten at [HR@bluestonemd.com](mailto:HR@bluestonemd.com)

# Important Notice from Bluestone Physicians Services, P.A. 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 Bluestone Physicians Services, P.A. 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. Bluestone Physician Services, P.A. has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Bluestone Physician Services Medical Plans is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage. Because your existing coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.

## When Can You Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

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

However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two (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 coverage will not be affected. If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will 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 Bluestone Physicians Services, P.A. 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 person listed below for further. **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 Bluestone Physician Services, P.A. 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](http://www.medicare.gov)
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of your copy of the "Medicare & You" handbook for their telephone number) for personalized help
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

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

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

Date: 01/01/2026

Name of Entity/Sender: Bluestone Physician Services, P.A.

Contact--Position/Office: Brian Holsten

Address: 270 Main St N #300, Stillwater, MN 55082

Phone Number: (651) 342-1039

## Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA

### INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

### WHAT IS COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE?

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

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

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

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."

## **WHEN IS COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE AVAILABLE?**

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

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

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

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

## **CAN I ENROLL IN MEDICARE INSTEAD OF COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE AFTER MY GROUP HEALTH PLAN COVERAGE ENDS?**

In general, if you don't enroll in Medicare Part A or B when you are first eligible because you are still employed, after the Medicare initial enrollment period, you have an 8-month special enrollment period to sign up for Medicare Part A or B, beginning on the earlier of

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

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

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

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

### **IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS**

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

Brian Holsten at [HR@bluestonemd.com](mailto:HR@bluestonemd.com)

1. <https://www.medicare.gov/basics/get-started-with-medicare/sign-up/when-does-medicare-coverage-start>.

## **Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act**

### **ENROLLMENT NOTICE**

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. Therefore, the following deductibles and coinsurance apply: \$1,500-20% and \$3,500- 0%. If you would like more information on WHCRA benefits, call your plan administrator at (651) 342-1039.

### **ANNUAL NOTICE**

Do you know that 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? Call your plan administrator at (651) 342-1039 for more information.

## **Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act**

The Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act (the Newborns' Act) provides protections for mothers and their newborn children relating to the length of their hospital stays following childbirth.

Under the Newborns' Act, group health plans may not restrict benefits for mothers or newborns for a hospital stay in connection with childbirth to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery or 96 hours following a delivery by cesarean section. The 48-hour (or 96-hour) period starts at the time of delivery, unless a woman delivers outside of the hospital. In that case, the period begins at the time of the hospital admission.

The attending provider may decide, after consulting with the mother, to discharge the mother and/or her newborn child earlier. The attending provider cannot receive incentives or disincentives to discharge the mother or her child earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours).

Even if a plan offers benefits for hospital stays in connection with childbirth, the Newborns' Act only applies to certain coverage. Specifically, it depends on whether coverage is "insured" by an insurance company or HMO or "self-insured" by an employment-based plan. (Check the Summary Plan Description, the document that outlines benefits and rights under the plan, or contact the plan administrator to find out if coverage in connection with childbirth is "insured" or "self-insured.")

The Newborns' Act provisions always apply to coverage that is self-insured. If the plan provides benefits for hospital stays in connection with childbirth and is insured, whether the plan is subject to the Newborns' Act depends on state law. Many states have enacted their own version of the Newborns' Act for insured coverage. If your state has a law regulating coverage for newborns and mothers that meets specific criteria and coverage is provided by an insurance company or HMO, state law will apply.

All group health plans that provide maternity or newborn infant coverage must include in their Summary Plan Descriptions a statement describing the Federal or state law requirements applicable to the plan (or any health insurance coverage offered under the plan) relating to hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child.

For more information, see the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) About the Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act.

## 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 or dial **1-877-KIDS NOW** or [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 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 –

STATE	WEBSITE/EMAIL	PHONE
<b>Alabama</b> Medicaid	<a href="http://myalhipp.com">myalhipp.com</a>	855-692-5447
<b>Alaska</b> Medicaid	Premium Payment Program: <a href="http://myalhipp.com">myalhipp.com</a> Medicaid Eligibility: <a href="http://health.alaska.gov/dpa">health.alaska.gov/dpa</a> Email: <a href="mailto:customerservice@myalhipp.com">customerservice@myalhipp.com</a>	866-251-4861
<b>Arkansas</b> Medicaid	<a href="http://myarhipp.com/">http://myarhipp.com/</a>	855-MyARHIPP (855-692-7447)
<b>California</b> Medicaid	<a href="http://dhcs.ca.gov/hipp">dhcs.ca.gov/hipp</a> Email: <a href="mailto:hipp@dhcs.ca.gov">hipp@dhcs.ca.gov</a>	916-445-8322 916-440-5676 (fax)
<b>Colorado</b> Medicaid and CHIP	Medicaid: <a href="http://healthfirstcolorado.com">healthfirstcolorado.com</a> CHIP: <a href="http://hcpf.colorado.gov/child-health-plan-plus">hcpf.colorado.gov/child-health-plan-plus</a> HIBI: <a href="http://mycohibi.com">mycohibi.com</a>	800-221-3943 Relay 711 800-359-1991 Relay 711 855-692-6442
<b>Florida</b> Medicaid	<a href="http://flmedicaidtplrecovery.com/flmedicaidtplrecovery.com/hipp/index.html">flmedicaidtplrecovery.com/flmedicaidtplrecovery.com/hipp/index.html</a>	877-357-3268
<b>Georgia</b> Medicaid	HIPP: <a href="http://medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp">medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp</a> CHIPRA: <a href="http://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/childrens-health-insurance-program-reauthorization-act-2009-chipra">medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/childrens-health-insurance-program-reauthorization-act-2009-chipra</a>	678-564-1162, press 1 678-564-1162, press 2
<b>Indiana</b> Medicaid	HIPP: <a href="https://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/">https://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/</a> All other Medicaid: <a href="http://in.gov/medicaid">in.gov/medicaid</a>	800-403-0864 800-457-4584
<b>Iowa</b> Medicaid and CHIP	Medicaid: <a href="http://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid">hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid</a> CHIP: <a href="http://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid/iowa-health-link/hawki">hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid/iowa-health-link/hawki</a> HIPP: <a href="http://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid/fee-service/hipp">hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid/fee-service/hipp</a>	800-338-8366 800-257-8563 888-346-9562

<b>Kansas</b> Medicaid	<a href="http://kancare.ks.gov">kancare.ks.gov</a>	800-792-4884 HIPP: 800-967-4660
<b>Kentucky</b> Medicaid and CHIP	KI-HIPP: <a href="http://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.aspx">chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.aspx</a> KI-HIPP Email: <a href="mailto:KIHIPPPROGRAM@ky.gov">KIHIPPPROGRAM@ky.gov</a> KCHIP: <a href="http://kynect.ky.gov">kynect.ky.gov</a> Medicaid: <a href="http://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms">chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms</a>	KI-HIPP: 855-459-6328 KCHIP: 877-524-4718
<b>Louisiana</b> Medicaid	<a href="http://ldh.la.gov/healthy-louisiana">ldh.la.gov/healthy-louisiana</a> or <a href="http://www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp">www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp</a>	Medicaid: 888-342-6207 LaHIPP: 855-618-5488
<b>Maine</b> Medicaid	Enrollment: <a href="http://mymaineconnection.gov/benefits">mymaineconnection.gov/benefits</a> Private health insurance premium: <a href="http://maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms">maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms</a>	Enroll: 800-442-6003 Private HIP: 800-977-6740 TTY/Relay: 711
<b>Massachusetts</b> Medicaid and CHIP	<a href="http://mass.gov/masshealth/pa">mass.gov/masshealth/pa</a> Email: <a href="mailto:masspremassistance@accenture.com">masspremassistance@accenture.com</a>	800-862-4840 TTY/Relay: 711
<b>Minnesota</b> Medicaid	<a href="http://mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage">mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage</a>	800-657-3672
<b>Missouri</b> Medicaid	<a href="http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm">dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm</a>	573-751-2005
<b>Montana</b> Medicaid	HIPP: <a href="http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP">dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP</a> HIPP Email: <a href="mailto:HSHIPPProgram@mt.gov">HSHIPPProgram@mt.gov</a>	800-694-3084
<b>Nebraska</b> Medicaid	<a href="http://ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov">ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov</a>	855-632-7633 Lincoln: 402-473-7000 Omaha: 402-595-1178
<b>Nevada</b> Medicaid	Medicaid: <a href="http://dhcfnv.gov">dhcfnv.gov</a>	800-992-0900
<b>New Hampshire</b> Medicaid	<a href="http://dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program">dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program</a> Email: <a href="mailto:DHHS.ThirdPartyLiabi@dhhs.nh.gov">DHHS.ThirdPartyLiabi@dhhs.nh.gov</a>	603-271-5218 or 800-852-3345, ext. 15218
<b>New Jersey</b> Medicaid and CHIP	Medicaid: <a href="http://state.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid">state.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid</a> CHIP: <a href="http://njfamilycare.org/index.html">njfamilycare.org/index.html</a>	Medicaid: 800-356-1561 CHIP Premium Assist: 609-631-2392 CHIP: 800-701-0710 TTY/Relay: 711
<b>New York</b> Medicaid	<a href="http://health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid">health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid</a>	800-541-2831
<b>North Carolina</b> Medicaid	<a href="http://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov">medicaid.ncdhhs.gov</a>	919-855-4100
<b>North Dakota</b> Medicaid	<a href="http://hhs.nd.gov/healthcare">hhs.nd.gov/healthcare</a>	844-854-4825
<b>Oklahoma</b> Medicaid and CHIP	<a href="http://insureoklahoma.org">insureoklahoma.org</a>	888-365-3742
<b>Oregon</b> Medicaid	<a href="http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx">healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx</a>	800-699-9075
<b>Pennsylvania</b> Medicaid and CHIP	Medicaid: <a href="http://pa.gov/en/services/dhs/apply-for-medicaid-health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp.html">pa.gov/en/services/dhs/apply-for-medicaid-health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp.html</a> CHIP: <a href="http://dhs.pa.gov/CHIP/Pages/CHIP.aspx">dhs.pa.gov/CHIP/Pages/CHIP.aspx</a>	Medicaid: 800-692-7462 CHIP: 800-986-KIDS (5437)
<b>Rhode Island</b> Medicaid and CHIP	<a href="http://eohhs.ri.gov">eohhs.ri.gov</a>	855-697-4347 or 401-462-0311 (Direct RIte)
<b>South Carolina</b> Medicaid	<a href="http://scdhhs.gov">scdhhs.gov</a>	888-549-0820
<b>South Dakota</b> Medicaid	<a href="http://dss.sd.gov">dss.sd.gov</a>	888-828-0059
<b>Texas</b> Medicaid	<a href="http://hhs.texas.gov/services/financial/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-program">hhs.texas.gov/services/financial/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-program</a>	800-440-0493

<b>Utah</b> Medicaid and CHIP	UPP: <a href="https://www.medicaid.utah.gov/upp/">medicaid.utah.gov/upp/</a> UPP Email: <a href="mailto:upp@utah.gov">upp@utah.gov</a> Adult Expansion: <a href="https://www.medicaid.utah.gov/expansion/">medicaid.utah.gov/expansion/</a> Utah Medicaid Buyout Program: <a href="https://www.medicaid.utah.gov/buyout-program/">medicaid.utah.gov/buyout-program/</a> CHIP: <a href="https://www.chip.utah.gov">chip.utah.gov</a>	UPP: 877-222-2542
<b>Vermont</b> Medicaid	<a href="https://dvha.vermont.gov/members/medicaid/hipp-program">dvha.vermont.gov/members/medicaid/hipp-program</a>	800-250-8427
<b>Virginia</b> Medicaid and CHIP	<a href="https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/famis-select">coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/famis-select</a> <a href="https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-programs">coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-programs</a>	Medicaid/CHIP: 800-432-5924
<b>Washington</b> Medicaid	<a href="https://hca.wa.gov">hca.wa.gov</a>	800-562-3022
<b>West Virginia</b> Medicaid and CHIP	<a href="https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/">dhhr.wv.gov/bms/</a> <a href="https://mywvhipp.com/">mywvhipp.com/</a>	Medicaid: 304-558-1700 CHIP: 855-699-8447
<b>Wisconsin</b> Medicaid and CHIP	<a href="https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm">dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm</a>	800-362-3002
<b>Wyoming</b> Medicaid	<a href="https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/programs-and-eligibility">health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/programs-and-eligibility</a>	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  
[dol.gov/agencies/ebsa](https://dol.gov/agencies/ebsa)  
866-444-EBSA (3272)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
[cms.hhs.gov](https://cms.hhs.gov)  
877-267-2323, Menu Option 4, ext. 61565