



New Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage

PART A: General Information

When key parts of the health care law take effect in 2014, there will be a new way to buy health insurance: the Health Insurance Marketplace. To assist you as you evaluate options for you and your family, this notice provides some basic information about the new Marketplace and employment-based health coverage offered by your employer.

What is the Health Insurance Marketplace?

The Marketplace is designed to find health insurance that meets your needs and fits your budget. The Marketplace offers “one-stop shopping” to find and compare private health options. You may also be eligible for a new kind of tax credit that lowers your monthly premium right away. Open enrollment for health insurance coverage through the Marketplace begins in October 2019 for coverage starting as early as January 1, 2020.

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

You may qualify to save money and lower your monthly premium, but only if your employer does not offer coverage, or offers coverage that doesn't meet certain standards. The savings on your premium that you're eligible for depends on your household income.

Does Employer Health Coverage Affect Eligibility for Premium Savings through the Marketplace?

Yes. If you have an offer of health coverage from your employer that meets certain standards, you will not be eligible for a tax credit through the Marketplace and may wish to enroll in your employer's health plan. However, you may be eligible for a tax 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 meets certain standards. If the cost of a plan from your employer that would cover you (and not any other members of your family) is more than 9.5% of your household income for the year, or if the coverage your employer provides does not meet the “minimum value” standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit.

Note: If you purchase a health plan through the Marketplace instead of accepting health coverage offered by your employer, then you may lose the employer contribution (if any) to the employer-offered coverage. Also, this employer contribution – as well as your employee contribution to employer-offered coverage – is often excluded from income for Federal and State income tax purposes. Your payments for coverage through the Marketplace are made on an after-tax basis. An employer-sponsored 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.

How Can I Get More Information?

For more information about your coverage offered by your employer, please check your summary plan description or contact:

Kimberly Alexander
Director of Human Resources
Bard College
PO Box 5000
Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504
(845)758-7516

The Marketplace can help you evaluate your coverage options, including your eligibility for coverage through the Marketplace and its cost. Please visit HealthCare.gov for more information, including an online application for health insurance coverage and contact information for a Health Insurance Marketplace in your area.

¹ An employer-sponsored 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.

General Group Health Plan Notices

Patient Protection Disclosure Notice

If your health plan generally allows the designation of a primary care provider, you have the right to designate any primary care provider who participates in the network and who is available to accept you or your family members. For children, you may designate a pediatrician as the primary care provider.

You do not need prior authorization from your health insurance carrier 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 your 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.

The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998

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, prosthesis and complications resulting from a mastectomy, including lymph edema? Contact your employer for more information.

The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act (WHCRA), signed into law on October 21, 1998, contains protections for patients who select breast reconstruction in connection with a mastectomy. Plans offering coverage for a mastectomy must also cover reconstructive surgery and other benefits related to a mastectomy.

Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act (WHCRA):

- Applies to group health plans for plan years starting on or after October 21, 1998.
- Applies to group health plans, health insurance companies or HMOs, if the plan or coverage provides medical and surgical benefits with respect to mastectomy.
- Requires coverage for reconstructive surgery in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient.

Under WHCRA, mastectomy benefits must include coverage 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;
- Prosthesis and treatment of physical complications of the mastectomy, including lymph edema;

Under WHCRA mastectomy benefits may be subject to annual deductibles and coinsurance consistent with those established for other benefits under the plan or coverage. Therefore, the following **in-network** copays, deductibles and coinsurance apply:

Benefit	HIGH PPO	LOW PPO	EPO HSA
Deductible	\$0	\$0	\$1,500 / \$3,000
PCP Office Visit	\$30 Copay	\$30 Copay	Covered in Full after Deductible
Specialist Office Visit	\$55 Copay	\$55 Copay	Covered in Full after Deductible
Inpatient Hospital Admission	\$250 Copay	\$250 Copay	Covered in Full after Deductible
Emergency Room	\$200 Copay	\$200 Copay	Covered in Full after Deductible

The law also contains prohibitions against:

- Plans and issuers denying patients eligibility or continued eligibility to enroll or renew coverage under the plans to avoid the requirements of WHCRA.
- Plans and issuers providing incentives to, or penalizing, physicians to induce them to provide care in a manner inconsistent with the WHCRA.

If you would like more information on WHCRA benefits, call your plan administrator.

Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act

Group health plans and health insurance issuers generally may not, under Federal law, restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, Federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under Federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the insurance issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

HIPAA Special Enrollment Rights

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

In addition, this special enrollment opportunity will not be available when other coverage ends unless you provide a written statement now explaining the reason that you are declining coverage for yourself or your dependent(s). Failing to accurately complete and return this form for each person for whom you are declining coverage will eliminate this special enrollment opportunity for the person(s) for whom a statement is not completed, even if other coverage is currently in effect and is later lost. In addition, unless you indicate in the statement that you are declining coverage because other coverage is in effect, you will not have this special enrollment opportunity for the person(s) covered by the statement. (See the paragraph below, however, regarding enrollment in the event of marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption.)

If you have a new dependent as result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents. However, you must enroll within "30 days" after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

A special enrollment opportunity may be available in the future if you or your dependent(s) lose other coverage. This special enrollment opportunity will not be available when other coverage ends, however, unless you provide a written statement now explaining the reason that you are declining coverage for yourself or your dependent(s). Failing to accurately complete and return this form for each person for whom you are declining coverage will eliminate this special enrollment opportunity for the person(s) for whom a statement is not completed, even if other coverage is currently in effect and is later lost. In addition, unless you indicate in the statement that you are declining coverage because other coverage is in effect, you will not have this special enrollment opportunity for the person(s) covered by the statement. (See the paragraph above, however, regarding enrollment in the event of marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption.)

Effective April 1, 2009 special enrollment rights also exist in the following circumstances:

- If you or your dependent(s) experience a loss of eligibility for Medicaid or your State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) coverage; or
- If you or your dependent(s) become eligible for premium assistance under an optional state Medicaid or SCHIP program that would pay the employee's portion of the health insurance premium.

Note: In the two above listed circumstances only, you or your dependent(s) will have sixty (60) days to request special enrollment in the group health plan coverage. An individual must request this special enrollment within sixty (60) days of the loss of coverage described at bullet one, and within sixty (60) days of when eligibility is determined as described at bullet two. To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact your HR representative.

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

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

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

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

If you or your dependents are eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or CHIP, as well as eligible under your employer plan, your employer must allow you to enroll in your employer plan if you aren’t already enrolled. This is called a “special enrollment” opportunity, and **you must request coverage within 60 days of being determined eligible for premium assistance**. If you have questions about enrolling in your employer plan, contact the Department of Labor at 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 includes states that currently offer a premium assistance program in the Tri-State region only. Contact your State for more information on eligibility.

NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP	NEW YORK - Medicaid
Medicaid Website: http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/ Medicaid Phone: 609-631-2392 CHIP Website: http://www.njfamilycare.org/index.html CHIP Phone: 1-800-701-0710	Website: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/ Phone: 1-800-541-2831

To see if any other states offer a premium assistance program, or for more information on special enrollment rights, contact either:

U.S. Department of Labor
 Employee Benefits Security Administration
www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa
 1-866-44-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

Important Notice About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with your employer and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether or not you want to join a Medicare drug plan. If you are considering joining, you should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered at what cost, with the coverage and costs of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area.

A plan's prescription drug coverage is considered creditable coverage if the amount the plan expects to pay on average for prescription drugs for individuals covered by the plan is the same or more than what standard Medicare prescription drug coverage would be expected to pay on average.

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. Your Employer has determined that the prescription drug coverage they offer 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 Will You Pay A Higher Premium (Penalty) To Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

You should also know that if you drop or lose your current coverage with your employer and don't join a Medicare drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan later.

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the Medicare base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without creditable coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

For More Information About This Notice Or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage...

Contact Marshall & Sterling at (866) 573-4768.