

Your Logo Here

Your Company Name Here

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

July 16, 2016

Employee & Eligible Beneficiaries,

As an employee of **Insert company name** and participant in our employee benefit programs, you and your beneficiaries may have various rights and privileges related to these programs. Laws governing health care require us to provide you with these notifications. Listed below are important notices to retain for your records. In the past, many of these notices were sent individually and are now grouped together to more clearly communicate your rights, and to simplify distribution. If you have any questions please contact **Your Name , , Insert Company Name**.

NOTIFICATIONS

HIPAA

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) requires that we notify you about two very important provisions in the plan. The first is your right to enroll in the plan under its "special enrollment provision" if you marry, acquire a new dependent, or if you decline coverage under the plan for an eligible dependent while other coverage is in effect and later the dependent loses that other coverage for certain qualifying reasons. Special enrollment must take place within 30 days of the qualifying event. If you are declined enrollment for yourself or your dependents (including your spouse) while coverage under Medicaid or a state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is in effect, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this program if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after you or your dependents' Medicaid or CHIP coverage ends. If you or your dependents (including your spouse) become eligible for a state premium assistance subsidy from Medicaid or a CHIP program with respect to coverage under this plan, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents (including your spouse) in this plan. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after you or your dependents become eligible for the premium assistance. To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact the plan administrator indicated in this notice.

Second, is the existence of any preexisting condition exclusion rules in the plan that may temporarily exclude coverage for certain preexisting conditions that you or a member of your family may have. For plan year starting in 2013, a preexisting condition exclusion cannot be longer than 12 months from your enrollment date (18 months for a late enrollee). A pre-existing condition exclusion that is applied to you must be reduced by the prior creditable coverage you have that was not interrupted by a significant break in coverage. You may show creditable coverage through a certificate of creditable coverage given to you by your prior plan or insurer (including an HMO) or by other proof. Refer to your plan document for additional details. Preexisting condition limitations or exclusions will no longer be applicable upon plan renewal in 2014 and for plan years starting in 2014 and beyond. Last, a HIPAA certificate of creditable coverage notice is generally given by the provider when there is a loss of coverage, this notice should be retained for your records as proof of creditable coverage. All questions about preexisting condition exclusion, special enrollment rights and creditable coverage should be directed to your health plan provider or plan administrator listed above. As of the first day of the 2014 plan year, the plan does not impose limitations on coverage for pre-existing conditions.

HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA") requires that we maintain the privacy of protected health information, give notice of our legal duties and privacy practices regarding health information about you and follow the terms of our notice currently in effect.

You may request a copy of the current Privacy Practices from the Plan Administrator explaining how medical information about you may be used and disclosed, and how you can get access to this information.

As Required by Law. We will disclose Health Information when required to do so by international, federal, state or local law.

You have the right to inspect and copy, right to an electronic copy of electronic medical records, right to get notice of a breach, right to amend, right to an accounting of disclosures, right to request restrictions, right to request confidential communications, right to a paper copy of this notice and the right to file a complaint if you believe your privacy rights have been violated.

CHIP NOTICE - 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 are 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 will not 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 any of the state's list here, contact your state Medicaid or CHIP office to find out if premium assistance is available. If you live in one of the following states, you may be eligible for assistance paying your employer health plan premiums. **ALABAMA** – Medicaid Website: <http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov> Phone: 1-855-692-5447, **ALASKA** – Medicaid Website: <http://health.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/programs/medicaid/> Phone (Outside of Anchorage): 1-888-318-8890 Phone (Anchorage): 907-269-6529, **ARIZONA** – CHIP Website: <http://www.azahcccs.gov/applicants> Phone (Outside of Maricopa County): 1-877-764-5437 Phone (Maricopa County): 602-417-5437, **COLORADO** – Medicaid Website: <http://www.colorado.gov/> Medicaid Phone (In state): 1-800-866-3513 Medicaid Phone (Out of state): 1-800-221-3943, **FLORIDA** – Medicaid Website: <https://www.flmedicaidtprecovery.com/> Phone: 1-877-357-3268, **GEORGIA** – Medicaid Website: <http://dch.georgia.gov/> - Click on Programs, then Medicaid, then Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Phone: 1-800-869-1150, **IDAHO** – Medicaid Website: <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Medical/Medicaid/PremiumAssistance/tabid/1510/Default.aspx> Medicaid Phone: 1-800-926-2588, **INDIANA** – Medicaid Website: <http://www.in.gov/fssa> Phone: 1-800-889-9949, **IOWA** – Medicaid Website: www.dhs.state.ia.us/hipp/ Phone: 1-888-346-9562, **KANSAS** – Medicaid Website: <http://www.kdheks.gov/hcf/> Phone: 1-800-792-4884, **KENTUCKY** – Medicaid Website: <http://chfs.ky.gov/dms/default.htm> Phone: 1-800-635-2570, **LOUISIANA** – Medicaid Website: <http://www.lahipp.dhh.louisiana.gov> Phone: 1-888-695-2447, **MAINE** – Medicaid Website: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/public-assistance/index.html> Phone: 1-800-977-6740 TTY 1-800-977-6741, **MASSACHUSETTS** – Medicaid and CHIP Website: <http://www.mass.gov/MassHealth> Phone: 1-800-462-1120, **MINNESOTA** – Medicaid Website: <http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/> Click on Health Care, then Medical Assistance Phone: 1-800-657-3629, **MISSOURI** – Medicaid Website: <http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm> Phone: 573-751-2005, **MONTANA** – Medicaid Website: <http://medicaidprovider.hhs.mt.gov/clientpages/clientindex.shtml> Phone: 1-800-694-3084, **NEBRASKA** – Medicaid Website: www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov Phone: 1-855-632-7633, **NEVADA** – Medicaid Website: <http://dwss.nv.gov/> Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900, **NEW HAMPSHIRE** – Medicaid Website: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oii/documents/hippapp.pdf> Phone: 603-271-5218, **NEW JERSEY** – Medicaid and CHIP 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, **NEW YORK** – Medicaid Website: http://www.nyhealth.gov/health_care/medicaid/ Phone: 1-800-541-2831, **NORTH CAROLINA** – Medicaid Website: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma> Phone: 919-855-4100, **NORTH DAKOTA** – Medicaid Website: <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/medicalserv/medicaid/> Phone: 1-800-755-2604, **OKLAHOMA** – Medicaid and CHIP Website: <http://www.insureoklahoma.org> Phone: 1-888-365-3742, **OREGON** – Medicaid Website: <http://www.oregonhealthykids.gov> <http://www.hijossaludablesoregon.gov> Phone: 1-800-699-9075, **PENNSYLVANIA** – Medicaid Website: <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/hipp> Phone: 1-800-692-7462, **RHODE ISLAND** – Medicaid Website: www.ohhs.ri.gov Phone: 401-462-5300, **SOUTH CAROLINA** – Medicaid Website: <http://www.scdhhs.gov> Phone: 1-888-549-0820, **SOUTH**

DAKOTA – Medicaid Website: <http://dss.sd.gov> Phone: 1-888-828-0059, **TEXAS** – Medicaid Website: <https://www.gethipptexas.com/> Phone: 1-800-440-0493, **UTAH** – Medicaid and CHIP Website: <http://health.utah.gov/upp> Phone: 1-866-435-7414, **VERMONT**– Medicaid Website: <http://www.greenmountaincare.org/> Phone: 1-800-250-8427, **VIRGINIA** – Medicaid and CHIP Medicaid Website: http://www.coverva.org/programs_premium_assistance.cfm Medicaid Phone: 1-800-432-5924 CHIP Website: http://www.coverva.org/programs_premium_assistance.cfm CHIP Phone: 1-855-242-8282, **WASHINGTON** – Medicaid Website: <http://www.hca.wa.gov/medicaid/premiumpymt/pages/index.aspx> Phone: 1-800-562-3022 ext. 15473, **WEST VIRGINIA** – Medicaid Website: www.dhhr.wv.gov/bms/ Phone: 1-877-598-5820, HMS Third Party Liability, **WISCONSIN** – Medicaid Website: <http://www.badgercareplus.org/pubs/p-10095.htm> Phone: 1-800-362-3002, **WYOMING** Website: <http://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/equalitycare> Phone: 307-777-7531. The list of States offering a premium assistance program is current as of July 31, 2014. States offering CHIP assistance may change without notice.

For more information on special enrollment rights, or to verify if any other State now offers premium assistance, contact either: U.S. Department of Labor Employee Benefit Security Administration www.dol.gov/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

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, you can 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.

Once it is determined that you or your dependents are eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or CHIP, as well as eligible under your employer plan, your employer must permit you to enroll in your employer plan if you are not 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, you can contact the Department of Labor electronically at www.askebsa.dol.gov or by calling toll-free 1-866-444-EBSA (3272).

WHCRA

The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act (WHCRA) of 1998, provides benefits for mastectomy-related services including reconstruction and surgery to achieve symmetry between the breasts, prostheses, and complications resulting from a mastectomy (including lymphedema). Call your health insurance issuer for more information.

This notice informs you of the Federal regulation that requires all health plans that cover mastectomies to also cover reconstruction of the removed breast. If you have had or are going to have a mastectomy, you may be entitled to certain benefits. 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 lymphedemas.

NMHPA

Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act requires that group health plans and health insurance issuers who offer childbirth coverage 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 issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours). Refer to your plan document for specific information about childbirth coverage or contact your plan administrator.

For additional information about NMHPA provisions and how Self-funded non Federal governmental plans may opt-out of the NMHPA requirements, visit http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Other-Insurance-Protections/nmhpfa_factsheet.html.

USERRA

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), protects the job rights of individuals who voluntarily or involuntarily leave employment positions to undertake military service or certain types of service in the National Disaster Medical System. USERRA also prohibits employers from discriminating against past and present members of the uniformed services, and applicants to the uniformed services.

Reemployment Rights

You have the right to be reemployed in your civilian job if you leave that job to perform service in the uniformed service and:

- You ensure that your employer receives advance written or verbal notice of your service;
- You have five years or less of cumulative service in the uniformed services while with that particular employer;
- You return to work or apply for reemployment in a timely manner after conclusion of service; and

- You have not been separated from service with a disqualifying discharge or under other than honorable conditions.

If you are eligible to be reemployed, you must be restored to the job and benefits you would have attained if you had not been absent due to military service or, in some cases, a comparable job.

Right To Be Free From Discrimination and Retaliation

If you are a past or present member of the uniformed service; have applied for membership in the uniformed service; or are obligated to serve in the uniformed service; then an employer may not deny you: initial employment; reemployment; retention in employment; promotion; or any benefit of employment because of this status. In addition, an employer may not retaliate against anyone assisting in the enforcement of USERRA rights, including testifying or making a statement in connection with a proceeding under USERRA, even if that person has no service connection.

Health Insurance Protection

If you leave your job to perform military service, you have the right to elect to continue your existing employer-based health plan coverage for you and your dependents for up to 24 months while in the military. Even if you don't elect to continue coverage during your military service, you have the right to be reinstated in your employer's health plan when you are reemployed, generally without any waiting periods or exclusions (e.g., pre-existing condition exclusions) except for service-connected illnesses or injuries.

Enforcement

The U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) is authorized to investigate and resolve complaints of USERRA violations. For assistance in filing a complaint, or for any other information on USERRA, contact VETS at **1-866-4-USA-DOL** or visit its **website at <http://www.dol.gov/vets>**. An interactive online USERRA Advisor can be viewed at <http://www.dol.gov/elaws/userra.htm>. If you file a complaint with VETS and VETS is unable to resolve it, you may request that your case be referred to the Department of Justice or the Office of Special Counsel, as applicable, for representation. You may also bypass the VETS process and bring a civil action against an employer for violations of USERRA.

GINA

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) prohibits employers and other entities covered by GINA Title II from requesting or requiring genetic information of an individual or family member of the individual, except as specifically allowed by this law. To comply with this law, we are asking that you not provide any genetic information when responding to any requests for medical information, if applicable. 'Genetic information,' as defined by GINA, includes an individual's family medical history, the results of an individual's or family member's genetic tests, the fact that an individual or an individual's family member sought or received genetic services, and genetic information of a fetus carried

by an individual or an individual's family member or an embryo lawfully held by an individual or family member receiving assistive reproductive services.

COBRA NOTICE

This notice has important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the company 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 when you would otherwise lose your group health coverage. It can also become available to other members of your family who are covered under the Plan when they would otherwise lose their group health coverage. 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 coverage would otherwise end because of a life event known as a "qualifying event." 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. Employees and their qualified dependents are responsible for notifying the Company of any change in address or status (e.g., divorce, insurance eligibility, child becoming ineligible due to age, etc.) within 30 days of the event.

If applicable, your participation in the Health Flexible Spending Account can also continue on an after-tax basis through the remainder of the Plan Year in which you qualify for COBRA. The opportunity to elect the same coverage that you had at the time the qualifying event occurred extends to all qualified beneficiaries.

If you make contributions to the Health Flexible Spending Account for the year in which your qualifying event occurs, you may continue to make these contributions on an after-tax basis. This way, you can be reimbursed for certain medical expenses you incur after your qualifying event, but before the end of the Plan Year.

You may be offered to continue your coverage under the Health Flexible Spending Account if you have not overspent your account. The determination of whether your account for a plan year is overspent or under spent as of the date of the qualifying event depends on three variables: (1) the elected annual limit for the qualified beneficiary for the Plan Year (e.g., \$2,550 of coverage); (2) the total reimbursable claims submitted to the Cafeteria Plan for that plan year before the date of the qualifying event; and (3) the maximum amount that the Cafeteria Plan is permitted to require to be paid for COBRA coverage for the remainder of the plan year. The elected annual limit less the claims submitted is referred to as the “remaining annual limit.” If the remaining annual limit is less than the maximum COBRA premium that can be charged for the rest of the year, then the account is overspent. You may not re-enroll in the Health Flexible Spending Account during any annual enrollment for any Plan Year that follows your qualifying event.

Supporting documentation like a divorce decree, death certificate, proof of other insurance may be required as proof of a qualifying event.

This general notice does not fully describe COBRA or the plan. More complete information is available from the plan administrator and in the summary plan document.

If you are an employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because either one of the following qualifying events happens:

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

If you are the spouse of an employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happens:

- 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 any of the following qualifying events happens:

- 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 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. When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of hours of employment, death of the employee, or the employee becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both), the employee must notify the Plan Administrator of the qualifying event.

How is COBRA 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. When the qualifying event is the death of the employee, the employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both), your divorce or legal separation, or a dependent child's losing eligibility as a dependent child, COBRA continuation coverage lasts for up to a total of 36 months. When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee's hours of employment, and the employee became entitled to Medicare benefits less than 18 months before the qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage for qualified beneficiaries other than the employee lasts until 36 months after the date of Medicare entitlement. For example, if a covered employee becomes entitled to Medicare 8 months before the date on which his employment terminates, COBRA continuation coverage for his spouse and children can last up to 36 months after the date of Medicare entitlement, which is equal to 28 months after the date of the qualifying event (36 months minus 8 months). Otherwise, when the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee's hours of employment, COBRA continuation coverage generally lasts for only up to a total of 18 months. There are two ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended.

Disability extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by the Social Security Administration to be disabled and you notify the Plan Administrator in a timely fashion, you and your entire family may be entitled to receive up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a total 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 continuation coverage. Documentation from the Social Security administration certifying a disability will be required.

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

If your family experiences another qualifying event while receiving 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 notice of the second qualifying event is properly given to the Plan. This extension may be available to the spouse and any dependent children receiving continuation coverage if the employee or former employee dies, becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both), or gets divorced or legally separated, or if the dependent child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child, but only if the 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, Medicaid, 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.

If you have questions

Questions concerning your Plan or your COBRA continuation coverage rights should be addressed to the plan administrator indicated above or in the summary plan description. 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.

MEDICARE PART D NOTICE

Medical Plan: **Insert Medical Carrier**

About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage 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. We have determined the prescription drug coverage offered by the Aetna 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 15th to December 7th. Plan participants are eligible if they are within three months of turning age 65, are already 65 years old or if they are disabled.

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, and benefits will be coordinated with Medicare. Refer to your plan documents provided upon eligibility and open enrollment or contact your provider or the plan administrator for an explanation and/or copy of the prescription drug coverage plan provisions/options under the plan available to Medicare eligible individuals when you become eligible for Medicare Part D Individuals. Visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CreditableCoverage/> which outlines the prescription drug plan provisions/options Medicare eligible individuals may have available to them when they become eligible for Medicare Part D.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and current coverage is dropped, be aware you and your dependents will be able to get this coverage back. Refer to plan documents or contact your provider or the plan administrator before making any decisions.

Note: In general, different guidelines exist for retirees regarding cancelation of coverage and the ability to get that coverage back. Retirees who terminate or lose coverage will not be able to get back on the plan unless specific contract language or other agreement exists. Contact the plan administrator for details.

When Will You Pay a Higher Premium (Penalty) to Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

You should also know if you drop or lose your current coverage 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 19 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 in this notifications report. You will get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next Medicare part D drug plan enrollment period and if this coverage changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

For more information about your options under medicare prescription drug coverage...

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is in the "Medicare & You" handbook. You'll get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare drug plans.

For more information about medicare prescription drug coverage: Visit www.medicare.gov

Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of your copy of the "Medicare & You" handbook for their telephone number) for personalized help.

Call 800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227). TTY users should call (877) 486-2048.

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

Remember to 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).