



Arkansas Tech University Group Health Plan Notices

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Important Notice from Arkansas Tech University About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

To: All Plan Participants Who Have Medicare or Will Become Eligible for Medicare in the Next 12 Months

***This notice is applicable to Medicare eligible participants ONLY. If you or one of your covered dependents is not Medicare eligible or will not be within the next 12 months, you can disregard this notice.*

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with Arkansas Tech University 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 is available 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. Arkansas Tech University has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by its health plan 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. (for most people, your first chance to join Medicare, including Medicare Part D, is when you turn age 65.) You can also join a Medicare Part D plan each year after you turn 65 from October 15 through December 7. Please note that the annual enrollment period for Medicare Part D is different than the general enrollment period for Medicare Part B (which is from January 1 to March 31, with coverage effective the following July 1).

If you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two-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?

Plan Participants who also are eligible for Medicare have the following three options concerning prescription drug coverage:

1. You may stay in the Plan and not enroll in the Medicare prescription drug coverage at this time. You will be able to enroll in the Medicare prescription drug coverage at a later date without penalty, either (1) during a Medicare prescription drug open enrollment period (October 15–December 7 of each year); or (2) if you lose Plan coverage. This is the best option for most Plan participants who are eligible for Medicare.

2. You may stay in the Plan and also enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage. The Plan will pay prescription drug benefits as the primary payer in most instances. Medicare Part D will pay benefits as a secondary payer, and thus the value of your Medicare prescription drug coverage will be greatly reduced. Your current coverage under the Plan pays for other health benefits as well as prescription drugs and will not change if you choose to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage.

3. You may reject all coverage under the Plan and choose coverage under Medicare as your primary and only payer for all medical and prescription drug expenses. If you do so, you will not be able to receive coverage under the Plan, including prescription drug coverage, unless and until you are eligible to reenroll in the Plan at the next open or special enrollment period for which you are eligible, if any. Your current coverage pays for other types of health expenses, in addition to prescription drugs, and you will not be eligible to receive any of your current health and prescription drug benefits if you reject coverage under the Plan and choose to enroll in Medicare, including a Medicare prescription drug plan, as your primary and only payer.

However, if you are enrolled in the HDHP, once you enroll in Medicare, you and your employer will not be eligible to make any further contributions to your Health Savings Account, although you will still be able to make withdrawals. And under the Plan coverage, you must meet the high-deductible amounts before the Plan will pay for most prescription drugs.

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 Arkansas Tech University 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 ATU Office of Human Resources at 479-968-0396.

NOTE: You'll get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this coverage through your employer changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

For More Information About Your Options Under Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

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

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

Visit www.medicare.gov

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

Call 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, 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).

Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act 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?

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.

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).

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

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

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

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

If you or your dependents are eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or CHIP, as well as eligible under your employer plan, your employer must allow you to enroll in your employer plan if you aren't already enrolled. This is called a “special enrollment” opportunity, and **you must request coverage within 60 days of being determined eligible for premium assistance**. If you have questions about enrolling in your employer plan, contact the Department of Labor at www.askebsa.dol.gov or call **1-866-444-EBSA (3272)**.

If you live in one of the following states, you may be eligible for assistance paying your employer health plan premiums. The following list of states is current as of July 31, 2023. Contact your State for more information on eligibility –

ALABAMA – Medicaid Website: http://myalhipp.com/ Phone: 1-855-692-5447	ALASKA – Medicaid The AK Health Insurance Premium Payment Program Website: http://myakhipp.com/ Phone: 1-866-251-4861 Email: CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com Medicaid Eligibility: https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/default.aspx
ARKANSAS – Medicaid Website: http://myarhipp.com/ Phone: 1-855-MyARHIPP (855-692-7447)	CALIFORNIA – Medicaid Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program Website: http://dhcs.ca.gov/hipp Phone: 916-445-8322 Fax: 916-440-5676 Email: hipp@dhcs.ca.gov

COLORADO – Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) & Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+)	FLORIDA – Medicaid
<p>Health First Colorado Website: https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/</p> <p>Health First Colorado Member Contact Center: 1-800-221-3943/State Relay 711</p> <p>CHP+: https://hcpf.colorado.gov/child-health-plan-plus</p> <p>CHP+ Customer Service: 1-800-359-1991/State Relay 711</p> <p>Health Insurance Buy-In Program (HIBI): https://www.mycohibi.com/ HIBI Customer Service: 1-855-692-6442</p>	<p>Website: https://www.flmedicaidtprecovery.com/flmedicaidprecovery.com/hipp/index.html</p> <p>Phone: 1-877-357-3268</p>
GEORGIA – Medicaid	INDIANA – Medicaid
<p>GA HIPP Website: https://medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp</p> <p>Phone: 678-564-1162, Press 1</p> <p>GA CHIPRA Website: https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/childrens-health-insurance-program-reauthorization-act-2009-chipra</p> <p>Phone: 678-564-1162, Press 2</p>	<p>Healthy Indiana Plan for low-income adults 19-64</p> <p>Website: http://www.in.gov/fssa/hip/</p> <p>Phone: 1-877-438-4479</p> <p>All other Medicaid</p> <p>Website: https://www.in.gov/medicaid/</p> <p>Phone: 1-800-457-4584</p>
IOWA – Medicaid and CHIP (Hawki)	KANSAS – Medicaid
<p>Medicaid Website: https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members</p> <p>Medicaid Phone: 1-800-338-8366</p> <p>Hawki Website: http://dhs.iowa.gov/Hawki</p> <p>Hawki Phone: 1-800-257-8563</p> <p>HIPP Website: https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/medicaid-a-to-z/hipp</p> <p>HIPP Phone: 1-888-346-9562</p>	<p>Website: https://www.kancare.ks.gov/</p> <p>Phone: 1-800-792-4884</p> <p>HIPP Phone: 1-800-967-4660</p>

KENTUCKY – Medicaid	LOUISIANA – Medicaid
<p>Kentucky Integrated Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (KI-HIPP) Website: https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.aspx</p> <p>Phone: 1-855-459-6328</p> <p>Email: KIHIPPROGRAM@ky.gov</p> <p>KCHIP Website: https://kidshealth.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx</p> <p>Phone: 1-877-524-4718</p> <p>Kentucky Medicaid Website: https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms</p>	<p>Website: www.medicaid.la.gov or www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp</p> <p>Phone: 1-888-342-6207 (Medicaid hotline) or 1-855-618-5488 (LaHIPP)</p>
MAINE – Medicaid	MASSACHUSETTS – Medicaid and CHIP
<p>Enrollment Website: https://www.mymaineconnection.gov/benefits/s/?language=en_US</p> <p>Phone: 1-800-442-6003</p> <p>TTY: Maine relay 711</p> <p>Private Health Insurance Premium Webpage: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms</p> <p>Phone: 1-800-977-6740</p> <p>TTY: Maine relay 711</p>	<p>Website: https://www.mass.gov/masshealth/pa</p> <p>Phone: 1-800-862-4840</p> <p>TTY: 711</p> <p>Email: masspreassistance@accenture.com</p>
MINNESOTA – Medicaid	MISSOURI – Medicaid
<p>Website: https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/children-and-families/health-care/health-care-programs/programs-and-services/other-insurance.jsp</p> <p>Phone: 1-800-657-3739</p>	<p>Website: http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm</p> <p>Phone: 573-751-2005</p>
MONTANA – Medicaid	NEBRASKA – Medicaid
<p>Website: http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP</p> <p>Phone: 1-800-694-3084</p> <p>Email: HSHIPPProgram@mt.gov</p>	<p>Website: http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov</p> <p>Phone: 1-855-632-7633</p> <p>Lincoln: 402-473-7000</p> <p>Omaha: 402-595-1178</p>

<p>NEVADA – Medicaid</p> <p>Medicaid Website: http://dhcfp.nv.gov</p> <p>Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900</p>	<p>NEW HAMPSHIRE – Medicaid</p> <p>Website: https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program</p> <p>Phone: 603-271-5218</p> <p>Toll free number for the HIPP program: 1-800-852-3345, ext. 5218</p>
<p>NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP</p> <p>Medicaid Website: http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/</p> <p>Medicaid Phone: 609-631-2392</p> <p>CHIP Website: http://www.nifamilycare.org/index.html</p> <p>CHIP Phone: 1-800-701-0710</p>	<p>NEW YORK – Medicaid</p> <p>Website: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/</p> <p>Phone: 1-800-541-2831</p>
<p>NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid</p> <p>Website: https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/</p> <p>Phone: 919-855-4100</p>	<p>NORTH DAKOTA – Medicaid</p> <p>Website: https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare</p> <p>Phone: 1-844-854-4825</p>
<p>OKLAHOMA – Medicaid and CHIP</p> <p>Website: http://www.insureoklahoma.org</p> <p>Phone: 1-888-365-3742</p>	<p>OREGON – Medicaid</p> <p>Website: http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx</p> <p>Phone: 1-800-699-9075</p>
<p>PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid and CHIP</p> <p>Website: https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/HIPP-Program.aspx</p> <p>Phone: 1-800-692-7462</p> <p>CHIP Website: Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (pa.gov)</p> <p>CHIP Phone: 1-800-986-KIDS (5437)</p>	<p>RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid and CHIP</p> <p>Website: http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/</p> <p>Phone: 1-855-697-4347, or 401-462-0311 (Direct Rite Share Line)</p>
<p>SOUTH CAROLINA – Medicaid</p> <p>Website: https://www.scdhhs.gov</p> <p>Phone: 1-888-549-0820</p>	<p>SOUTH DAKOTA - Medicaid</p> <p>Website: http://dss.sd.gov</p> <p>Phone: 1-888-828-0059</p>
<p>TEXAS – Medicaid</p> <p>Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program Texas Health and Human Services</p> <p>Phone: 1-800-440-0493</p>	<p>UTAH – Medicaid and CHIP</p> <p>Medicaid Website: https://medicaid.utah.gov/</p> <p>CHIP Website: http://health.utah.gov/chip</p> <p>Phone: 1-877-543-7669</p>

VERMONT– Medicaid Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program Department of Vermont Health Access Phone: 1-800-250-8427	VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP Website: https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/famis-select https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-programs Medicaid/CHIP Phone: 1-800-432-5924
WASHINGTON – Medicaid Website: https://www.hca.wa.gov/ Phone: 1-800-562-3022	WEST VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP Website: https://dhr.wv.gov/bms/ http://mywvhipp.com/ Medicaid Phone: 304-558-1700 CHIP Toll-free phone: 1-855-MyWVHIPP (1-855-699-8447)
WISCONSIN – Medicaid and CHIP Website: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm Phone: 1-800-362-3002	WYOMING – Medicaid Website: https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/programs-and-eligibility/ Phone: 1-800-251-1269

To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since July 31, 2023, or for more information on special enrollment rights, contact either:

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

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

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) (PRA), no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The Department notes that a Federal agency cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it is approved by OMB under the PRA, and displays a currently valid OMB control number, and the public is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C.

3507. Also, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if the collection of information does not display a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3512.

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average approximately seven minutes per respondent. Interested parties are encouraged to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Office of Policy and Research, Attention: PRA Clearance Officer, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room N-5718, Washington, DC 20210 or email ebesa.opr@dol.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1210-0137.

OMB Control Number 1210-0137 (expires 1/31/2026)

Notice of Special Enrollment Rights

If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance or group health plan coverage, 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).

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

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact the ATU Office of Human Resources at 479-968-0396.

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."

Sometimes, filing a proceeding in bankruptcy under title 11 of the United States Code can be a qualifying event. If a proceeding in bankruptcy is filed with respect to Arkansas Tech University, and that bankruptcy results in the loss of coverage of any retired employee covered under the Plan, the retired employee will become a qualified beneficiary. The retired employee's spouse, surviving spouse, and dependent children will also become qualified beneficiaries if bankruptcy results in the loss of their coverage under the Plan.

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;
- Commencement of a proceeding in bankruptcy with respect to the employer; or
- The employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both).

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

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, 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.

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 period¹ to sign up for Medicare Part A or B, beginning on the earlier of

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

- 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/agencies/ebsa. (Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website.) For more information about the Marketplace, visit www.HealthCare.gov.

Keep your Plan informed of address changes

To protect your family's rights, let the Plan Administrator know about any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator.

Plan contact information

Contact the ATU Office of Human Resources at 479-968-0396.

For the Department of Labor's Employer Exchange/Marketplace Notice information, please click the link below:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa/laws-and-regulations/laws/affordable-care-act/for-employers-and-advisers/coverage-options-notice>



New Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage

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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 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. 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 2013 for coverage starting as early as January 1, 2014.

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.¹

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.*

How Can I Get More Information?

For more information about your coverage offered by your employer, please check your summary plan description or contact the ATU Office of Human Resources at 479-968-0396.

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://www.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 percent of such costs.

PART B: Information About Health Coverage Offered by Your Employer

This section contains information about any health coverage offered by your employer. If you decide to complete an application for coverage in the Marketplace, you will be asked to provide this information. This information is numbered to correspond to the Marketplace application.

3. Employer name		4. Employer Identification Number (EIN)	
5. Employer address		6. Employer phone number	
7. City	8. State	9. ZIP Code	
10. Who can we contact about employee health coverage at this job?			
11. Phone number (if different from above)		12. Email address	

Here is some basic information about health coverage offered by this employer:

- As your employer, we offer a health plan to:
 - Some employees. Eligible employees are individuals who are under a Notice of Employment for at least 30 hours per week.**
- With respect to dependents:
 - We do offer coverage. Eligible dependents are spouses or taxable dependent children up to the age of 26.**

If checked, this coverage meets the minimum value standard, and the cost of this coverage to you is intended to be affordable, based on employee wages.

** Even if your employer intends your coverage to be affordable, you may still be eligible for a premium discount through the Marketplace. The Marketplace will use your household income, along with other factors, to determine whether you may be eligible for a premium discount. If, for example, your wages vary from week to week (perhaps you are an hourly employee or you work on a commission basis), if you are newly employed mid-year, or if you have other income losses, you may still qualify for a premium discount.

If you decide to shop for coverage in the Marketplace, [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) will guide you through the process. Here's the employer information you'll enter when you visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) to find out if you can get a tax credit to lower your monthly premiums.

The information below corresponds to the Marketplace Employer Coverage Tool. **Completing this section is optional for employers**, but will help ensure employees understand their coverage choices.

13. **Is the employee currently eligible for coverage offered by this employer, or will the employee be eligible in the next 3 months?**

Yes (Continue)

13a. If the employee is not eligible today, including as a result of a waiting or probationary period, when is the employee eligible for coverage? _____
(mm/dd/yyyy) (Continue)

No (STOP and return this form to employee)

14. Does the employer offer a health plan that meets the minimum value standard*?

Yes (Go to question 15) No (STOP and return form to employee)

15. For the lowest-cost plan that meets the minimum value standard* **offered only to the employee** (don't include family plans): If the employer has wellness programs, provide the premium that the employee would pay if he/ she received the maximum discount for any tobacco cessation programs, and didn't receive any other discounts based on wellness programs.

a. How much would the employee have to pay in premiums for this plan? \$_____

b. How often? Weekly Every 2 weeks Twice a month Monthly Quarterly Yearly

If the plan year will end soon and you know that the health plans offered will change, go to question 16. If you don't know, STOP and return form to employee.

16. What change will the employer make for the new plan year? _____

Employer won't offer health coverage

Employer will start offering health coverage to employees or change the premium for the lowest-cost plan available only to the employee that meets the minimum value standard.* (Premium should reflect the discount for wellness programs. See question 15.)

a. How much will the employee have to pay in premiums for that plan? \$_____

b. How often?

Weekly Every 2 weeks Twice a month Monthly Quarterly Yearly

* 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 percent of such costs (Section 36B(c)(2)(C)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986)

Instructions: The No Surprises Act (the “Act”) requires group health plans and health insurance issuers to make publicly available, post on a public website of the plan or issuer, and include on each Explanation of Benefits, information in plain language about balance billing restrictions in certain circumstances, any applicable state law protections against balance billing, the requirements of the Act, and how to contact appropriate agencies to report suspected violations of the Act. Plans and issuers may use this model notice to meet the disclosure requirements. This notice is not required to be part of your annual enrollment notices, but can be provided in order to educate plan participants about the new balance billing law.

For more information and further instructions, see the following websites:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa/laws-and-regulations/laws/no-surprises-act>

<https://www.cms.gov/nosurprises/policies-and-resources/overview-of-rules-fact-sheets>

For general information about state balance billing laws, see:

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/surprise-and-balance-billing-state-policy-options.aspx>

Your Rights and Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills

When you get emergency care or get treated by an out-of-network provider at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgery center, you are protected from surprise billing or balance billing.

What is “balance billing” (sometimes called “surprise billing”)?

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

“Out-of-network” describes providers and facilities that haven't signed a contract with your health plan. Out-of-network providers may be permitted to bill you for the difference between what your plan agreed to pay and the full amount charged for a service. This is called “**balance billing**.” This amount is likely more than in-network costs for the same service and might not count toward your annual out-of-pocket limit.

“Surprise billing” is an unexpected balance bill. This can happen when you can't control who is involved in your care—like when you have an emergency or when you schedule a visit at an in-network facility but are unexpectedly treated by an out-of-network provider.

You are protected from balance billing for:

Emergency services

If you have an emergency medical condition and get emergency services from an out-of-network provider or facility, the most the provider or facility may bill you is your plan's in-network cost-sharing amount (such as copayments and coinsurance). You **can't** be balance billed for these emergency services. This includes services you may get after you're in stable condition, unless you give written consent and give up your protections not to be balanced billed for these post-stabilization services.

In addition to the protections of the federal No Surprises Act, the state in which you receive services may have protections that apply to your visit for emergency or non-emergency services.

Additional information is available from your state department of insurance or attorney general's office.

Certain services at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center

When you get services from an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, certain providers there may be out-of-network. In these cases, the most those providers may bill you is your plan's in-network cost-sharing amount. This applies to emergency medicine, anesthesia, pathology, radiology, laboratory, neonatology, assistant surgeon, hospitalist, or intensivist services. These providers **can't** balance bill you and may **not** ask you to give up your protections not to be balance billed.

If you get other services at these in-network facilities, out-of-network providers **can't** balance bill you, unless you give written consent and give up your protections.

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

In addition to the protections of the federal No Surprises Act, the state in which you receive services may have protections that apply to non-emergency services at an in-network facility. Additional information is available from your state department of insurance or attorney general's office.

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

You are only responsible for paying your share of the cost (like the copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles that you would pay if the provider or facility was in-network). Your health plan will pay out-of-network providers and facilities directly.

Your health plan generally must:

Cover emergency services without requiring you to get approval for services in advance (prior authorization).

Cover emergency services by out-of-network providers.

Base what you owe the provider or facility (cost-sharing) on what it would pay an in-network provider or facility and show that amount in your explanation of benefits.

Count any amount you pay for emergency services or out-of-network services toward your deductible and out-of-pocket limit.

If you believe you've been wrongly billed, you may contact the No Surprises Act Help Desk at 1-800-985-3059.

Visit www.cms.gov/nosurprises for more information about your rights under federal law. Your state website may be found at www.arkansas.gov and searching for "no surprises, balance billing, or consumer protections."