



TO: Employees Eligible for Group Health Benefits under the Texas Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church Group Health Plans

DATE: January 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Required Annual Notices for Group Health Plans

*****Important Information – Action May Be Required*****

To make sure that you have all the information you need to make informed decisions for you and your family, the law requires Texas Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church to provide you with notice of certain legal rights that you may have and legal obligations that apply to the Texas Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church. These rights and obligations are described in more detail in the enclosed notices.

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You should review these notices closely and keep them with other materials that you receive about benefits available under the Plan. If you have any questions about any of the legal rights and obligations described below or the Plan, you should write or call:

Mariana Morales, Senior Group Health Benefits Specialist / HIPAA Privacy Officer /
Wellness Program Coordinator

5215 Main | Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 533-3723 | mmorales@txcumc.org

The following notices are not intended to be a description of the benefits offered under the Plan. For more information about specific benefits, refer to the Summary Plan Descriptions for the Plan, which are available by visiting www.txcumc.org/benefits.

*If you (and/or your dependents) have Medicare or will become eligible for Medicare in the next 12 months, a Federal law gives you more choices about your prescription drug coverage. Please see **page 7** for more details.*

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

Enrollment Notice

If you have had or are going to have a mastectomy, you may be entitled to certain benefits under the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA). For individuals receiving mastectomy-related benefits, coverage will be provided in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient, for:

- All stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy was performed;
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance;
- Prostheses; and
- Treatment of physical complications of the mastectomy, including lymphedema.

These benefits will be provided subject to the same deductibles and coinsurance applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under this plan. Therefore, the following deductibles and coinsurance apply:

- Standard PPO Plan, 80/60, \$1,000
- High-Deductible PPO Plan, 80/60, \$1,850

If you would like more information on WHCRA benefits, contact your plan administrator:

Marianela Morales

Senior Group Health Benefits Specialist / HIPAA Privacy Officer / Wellness Program Coordinator
(713) 533-3723
mmorales@txcumc.org

Annual Notice

Do you know that your plan, as required by the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998, provides benefits for mastectomy-related services including all stages of reconstruction and surgery to achieve symmetry between the breasts, prostheses, and complications resulting from a mastectomy, including lymphedema? Contact your plan administrator for more information.

Newborns' and Mother's Health Protection Act (NMHPA) Notice

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).

Wellness Program Notice

Reasonable Alternative Standard

Note: Refer to TAC's Specific Wellness Program Notice Rev. 10-11-2023 for details.

Wellness Program

TAC WELLNESS PROGRAM NOTICE

The Texas Annual Conference (TAC) Wellness Program is a voluntary Wellness Program available to all employees and spouses enrolled in the TAC Group Health Benefit Plan. The program is administered according to federal rules permitting employer-sponsored Wellness Programs that seek to improve employee health or prevent disease, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, as applicable, among others.

Taxable cash incentives may be available for employees and spouses who participate in certain health-related activities such as losing weight and maintaining a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 25.0 or less.

If you are unable to participate in any of the health-related activities or achieve any of the health outcomes required to earn an incentive, you may be entitled to a reasonable accommodation or an alternative standard. You may request a reasonable accommodation or an alternative standard by contacting **Marianela Morales, Senior Group Health Benefits Specialist / HIPAA Privacy Officer / Wellness Program Coordinator**, at (713) 533-3723 or at mmorales@txcumc.org.

Protections from Disclosure of Medical Information

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

Your health information will not be sold, exchanged, transferred, or otherwise disclosed except to the extent permitted by law to carry out specific activities related to the Wellness Program, and you will not be asked or required to waive the confidentiality of your health information as a condition of participating in the Wellness Program or receiving an incentive. Anyone who receives your information for purposes of providing you services as part of the Wellness Program will abide by the same confidentiality requirements. The only individual(s) who will receive your personally identifiable health information are the Center for Connectional Resources and the Disease Management Program nurses at **Apta Health** in order to provide you with services under the Wellness Program.

In addition, all medical information obtained through the Wellness Program will be maintained separate from your personnel records in the Center for Connectional Resources or **Apta Health** offices, and no information you provide as part of the Wellness Program will be used in making any employment decision. Appropriate precautions will be taken to avoid any data breach, and in the event a data breach occurs involving information you provide in connection with the Wellness Program, we will notify you immediately.

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

If you have questions or concerns regarding this notice, or about protections against discrimination and retaliation, please contact **Marianela Morales, Senior Group Health Benefits Specialist / HIPAA Privacy Officer / Wellness Program Coordinator**, at (713) 533-3723 or at mmorales@txcumc.org.

Notice of HIPAA Privacy Practices

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

This notice is intended to inform you of the privacy practices followed by the Texas Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church Health Plan and the Plan's legal obligations regarding your protected health information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). The notice also explains the privacy rights you and your family members have as participants of the Plan. It is effective on 01/01/2024.

The Plan often needs access to your protected health information in order to provide payment for health services and perform plan administrative functions. We want to assure the plan participants covered under the Plan that we comply with federal privacy laws and respect your right to privacy. Texas Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church requires all members of our workforce and third parties that are provided access to protected health information to comply with the privacy practices outlined below.

Protected Health Information

Your protected health information is protected by the HIPAA Privacy Rule. Generally, protected health information is information that identifies an individual created or received by a health care provider, health plan or an employer on behalf of a group health plan that relates to physical or mental health conditions, provision of health care, or payment for health care, whether past, present or future.

How We May Use Your Protected Health Information

Under the HIPAA Privacy Rule, we may use or disclose your protected health information for certain purposes without your permission. This section describes the ways we can use and disclose your protected health information.

Payment. We use or disclose your protected health information without your written authorization in order to determine eligibility for benefits, seek reimbursement from a third party, or coordinate benefits with another health plan under which you are covered. For example, a health care provider that provided treatment to you will provide us with your health information. We use that information in order to determine whether those services are eligible for payment under our group health plan.

Health Care Operations. We use and disclose your protected health information in order to perform plan administration functions such as quality assurance activities, resolution of internal grievances, and evaluating plan performance. For example, we review claims experience in order to understand participant utilization and to make plan design changes that are intended to control health care costs.

Treatment. Although the law allows use and disclosure of your protected health information for purposes of treatment, as a health plan we generally do not need to disclose your information for treatment purposes. Your physician or health care provider is required to provide you with an explanation of how they use and share your health information for purposes of treatment, payment, and health care operations.

As permitted or required by law. We may also use or disclose your protected health information without your written authorization for other reasons as permitted by law. We are permitted by law to share information, subject to certain requirements, in order to communicate information on health-related benefits or services that may be of interest to you, respond to a court order, or provide information to further public health activities (e.g., preventing the spread of disease) without your written authorization. We are also permitted to share protected health information during a corporate restructuring such as a merger, sale, or acquisition. We will also disclose health information about you when required by law, for example, in order to prevent serious harm to you or others.

Pursuant to Your Authorization. When required by law, we will ask for your written authorization before using or disclosing your protected health information. If you choose to sign an authorization to disclose information, you can later revoke that authorization to prevent any future uses or disclosures.

To Business Associates. We may enter into contracts with entities known as Business Associates that provide services to or perform functions on behalf of the Plan. We may disclose protected health information to Business Associates once they have agreed in writing to safeguard the protected health information. For example, we may disclose your protected health information to a Business Associate to administer claims. Business Associates are also required by law to protect protected health information.

To the Plan Sponsor. We may disclose protected health information to certain employees of Texas Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church for the purpose of administering the Plan. These employees will use or disclose the protected health information only as necessary to perform plan administration functions or as otherwise required by HIPAA, unless you have authorized additional disclosures. Your protected health information cannot be used for employment purposes without your specific authorization.

Your Rights

Right to Inspect and Copy. In most cases, you have the right to inspect and copy the protected health information we maintain about you. If you request copies, we will charge you a reasonable fee to cover the costs of copying, mailing, or other expenses associated with your request. Your request to inspect or review your health information must be submitted in writing to the person listed below. In some circumstances, we may deny your request to inspect and copy your health information. To the extent your information is held in an electronic health record, you may be able to receive the information in an electronic format.

Right to Amend. If you believe that information within your records is incorrect or if important information is missing, you have the right to request that we correct the existing information or add the missing information. Your request to amend your health information must be submitted in writing to the person listed below. In some circumstances, we may deny your request to amend your health information. If we deny your request, you may file a statement of disagreement with us for inclusion in any future disclosures of the disputed information.

Right to an Accounting of Disclosures. You have the right to receive an accounting of certain disclosures of your protected health information. The accounting will not include disclosures that were made (1) for purposes of treatment, payment or health care operations; (2) to you; (3) pursuant to your authorization; (4) to your friends or family in your presence or because of an emergency; (5) for national security purposes; or (6) incidental to otherwise permissible disclosures.

Your request for an accounting must be submitted in writing to the person listed below. You may request an accounting of disclosures made within the last six years. You may request one accounting free of charge within a 12-month period.

Right to Request Restrictions. You have the right to request that we not use or disclose information for treatment, payment, or other administrative purposes except when specifically authorized by you, when required by law, or in emergency circumstances. You also have the right to request that we limit the protected health information that we disclose to someone involved in your care or the payment for your care, such as a family member or friend.

Your request for restrictions must be submitted in writing to the person listed below. We will consider your request, but in most cases are not legally obligated to agree to those restrictions. However, we will comply with any restriction request if the disclosure is to a health plan for purposes of payment or health care operations (not for treatment) and the protected health information pertains solely to a health care item or service that has been paid for out-of-pocket and in full.

Right to Request Confidential Communications. You have the right to receive confidential communications containing your health information. Your request for restrictions must be submitted in writing to the person listed below. We are required to accommodate reasonable requests. For example, you may ask that we contact you at your place of employment or send communications regarding treatment to an alternate address.

Right to be Notified of a Breach. You have the right to be notified in the event that we (or one of our Business Associates) discover a breach of your unsecured protected health information. Notice of any such breach will be made in accordance with federal requirements.

Right to Receive a Paper Copy of this Notice. If you have agreed to accept this notice electronically, you also have a right to obtain a paper copy of this notice from us upon request. To obtain a paper copy of this notice, please contact the person listed below.

Our Legal Responsibilities. We are required by law to protect the privacy of your protected health information, provide you with certain rights with respect to your protected health information, provide you with this notice about our privacy practices, and follow the information practices that are described in this notice.

We may change our policies at any time. In the event that we make a significant change in our policies, we will provide you with a revised copy of this notice. You can also request a copy of our notice at any time. For more information about our privacy practices, contact the person listed below.

If you have any questions or complaints, please contact:

Marianela Morales

Senior Group Health Benefits Specialist / HIPAA Privacy Officer / Wellness Program Coordinator
(713) 533-3723
mmorales@txcumc.org

Complaints

If you are concerned that we have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree with a decision we made about access to your records, you may contact the person listed above. You also may send a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services — Office of Civil Rights. The person listed above can provide you with the appropriate address upon request or you may visit www.hhs.gov/ocr for further information. You will not be penalized or retaliated against for filing a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights or with us.

Notice of HIPAA Special Enrollment Rights

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

Loss of Other Coverage

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

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.

Medicaid or CHIP

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

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, please contact:

Marianela Morales

Senior Group Health Benefits Specialist / HIPAA Privacy Officer / Wellness Program Coordinator

(713) 533-3723

mmorales@txcumc.org

CREDITABLE COVERAGE – Standard PPO Plan, 80/60, \$1,000, High-Deductible PPO Plan, 80/60, \$1,850

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 Texas Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church 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. Texas Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Texas Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church 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.

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 Texas Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church coverage may be affected. If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Texas Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will not be able to get this coverage back until the next open enrollment period.

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 Texas Annual Conference, The United Methodist

Church 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 nineteen months without creditable coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

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

Contact the person listed below for further information. 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 Texas Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church 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 you are eligible 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).*

Date: January 1, 2024
Name of Entity/Sender: Texas Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church
Contact - Position/Office: **Marianela Morales**, Senior Group Health Benefits Specialist / HIPAA Privacy Officer / Wellness Program Coordinator
Address: 5215 Main
Houston, Texas 770002
Phone Number: (713) 533-3723

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 –

List begins on next page.

ALABAMA – Medicaid	CALIFORNIA – Medicaid
Website: www.myalhipp.com Phone: 1-855-692-5447	Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program Website: www.dhcs.ca.gov/hipp Phone: 916-445-8322 Fax: 916-440-5676 Email: hipp@dhcs.ca.gov
ALASKA – Medicaid	COLORADO – Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) & Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+)
The AK Health Insurance Premium Payment Program Website: www.myakhipp.com Phone: 1-866-251-4861 Email: CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com Medicaid Eligibility: https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/default.aspx	Health First Colorado Website: www.healthfirstcolorado.com HFC Member Contact Center: 1-800-221-3943 / State Relay 711 CHP+ Website: https://hcpf.colorado.gov/child-health-plan-plus CHP + Customer Service: 1-800-359-1991 / State Relay 711 Health Insurance Buy-In Program (HIBI): www.mycohibi.com HIBI Customer Service: 1-855-692-6442
ARKANSAS – Medicaid	FLORIDA – Medicaid
Website: www.myarhipp.com Phone: 1-855-MyARHIPP (855-692-7447)	Website: www.flmedicaidprecovery.com/ flmedicaidprecovery.com/hipp Phone: 1-877-357-3268
GEORGIA – Medicaid	MAINE – Medicaid
GA HIPP Website: https://medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp Phone: 678-564-1162, Press 1 GA CHIPRA Website: https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/childrens-health-insurance-program-reauthorization-act-2009-chipra Phone: (678) 564-1162, Press 2	Enrollment Website: www.mymaineconnection.gov Phone: 1-800-442-6003 TTY: Maine relay 711 Private Health Insurance Premium Webpage: www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms Phone: 1-800-977-6740 TTY: Maine relay 711
INDIANA – Medicaid	MASSACHUSETTS – Medicaid and CHIP
Healthy Indiana Plan for low-income adults ages 19-64 Website: www.in.gov/fssa/hip Phone: 1-877-438-4479 All other Medicaid Website: www.in.gov/medicaid Phone: 1-800-457-4584	Website: www.mass.gov/masshealth/pa Phone: 1-800-862-4840 TTY: 711 Email: masspremassistance@accenture.com
IOWA – Medicaid and CHIP (Hawki)	MINNESOTA – Medicaid
Medicaid Website: https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members Medicaid Phone: 1-800-338-8366 Hawki Website: https://dhs.iowa.gov/hawki Hawki Phone: 1-800-257-8563 HIPP Website: https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/medicaid-a-to-z/hipp HIPP Phone: 1-888-346-9562	Website: www.mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/children-and-families/health-care/health-care-programs/programs-and-services/other-insurance.jsp Phone: 1-800-657-3739
KANSAS – Medicaid	MISSOURI – Medicaid
Website: www.kdheks.gov/hcf/default.htm Phone: 1-800-792-4884 HIPP Phone: 1-800-967-4660	Website: www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm Phone: 573-751-2005
KENTUCKY – Medicaid	MONTANA – Medicaid
Kentucky Integrated Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (KI-HIPP) Website: https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/pages/kihipp.aspx Phone: 1-855-459-6328 Email: kihipp.program@ky.gov KCHIP Website: https://kidshealth.ky.gov/pages/index.aspx Phone: 1-877-524-4718 Kentucky Medicaid Website: https://chfs.ky.gov	Website: www.dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP Phone: 1-800-694-3084 Email: HSHIPPProgram@mt.gov

LOUISIANA – Medicaid	NEBRASKA – Medicaid
Website: www.medicaid.la.gov or www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp Phone: 1-888-342-6207 (Medicaid hotline) or 1-855-618-5488 (LaHIPP)	Website: www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov Phone: 1-855-632-7633 Lincoln: 402-473-7000 Omaha: 402-595-1178
NEVADA - Medicaid	SOUTH CAROLINA - Medicaid
Medicaid Website: www.dhcfp.nv.gov Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900	Website: www.scdhhs.gov Phone: 1-888-549-0820
NEW HAMPSHIRE – Medicaid	SOUTH DAKOTA - Medicaid
Website: www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program Phone: 603-271-5218 HIPP toll free number: 1-800-852-3345, ext 5218	Website: www.dss.sd.gov Phone: 1-888-828-0059
NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP	TEXAS – Medicaid
Medicaid Website: www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid Medicaid Phone: 609-631-2392 CHIP Website: www.njfamilycare.org/index.html CHIP Phone: 1-800-701-0710	Website: www.hhs.texas.gov/services/financial/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-program Phone: 1-800-440-0493
NEW YORK – Medicaid	UTAH – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid Phone: 1-800-541-2831	Medicaid Website: www.medicaid.utah.gov CHIP Website: www.health.utah.gov/chip Phone: 1-877-543-7669
NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid	VERMONT– Medicaid
Website: www.medicaid.ncdhhs.gov Phone: 919-855-4100	Website: www.dvha.vermont.gov/members/medicaid/hipp-program Phone: 1-800-250-8427
NORTH DAKOTA – Medicaid	VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare Phone: 1-844-854-4825	Website: www.coverva.org/en/famis-select or www.coverva.org/en/hipp Medicaid/CHIP Phone: 1-800-432-5924
OKLAHOMA – Medicaid and CHIP	WASHINGTON – Medicaid
Website: www.insureoklahoma.org Phone: 1-888-365-3742	Website: www.hca.wa.gov Phone: 1-800-562-3022
OREGON – Medicaid	WEST VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: www.healthcare.oregon.gov/pages/index.aspx Phone: 1-800-699-9075	Website: www.dhhr.wv.gov/bms or www.mywvhipp.com Medicaid Phone: 304-558-1700 CHIP Toll-free phone: 1-855-MyWVHIPP (1-855-699-8447)
PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid and CHIP	WISCONSIN – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/HIPP-Program.aspx Phone: 1-800-692-7462 CHIP Website: www.dhs.pa.gov/CHIP/Pages/CHIP.aspx CHIP Phone: 1-800-986-KIDS (5437)	Website: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm Phone: 1-800-362-3002
RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid and CHIP	WYOMING – Medicaid
Website: www.eohhs.ri.gov Phone: 1-855-697-4347 Direct RIte Share Line: 401-462-0311	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 **ebsa.opr@dol.gov** and reference the OMB Control Number 1210-0137.

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

Your Rights and Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills

When you get emergency care or get treated by an out-of-network provider at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, you are protected from surprise billing or balance billing. In these cases, you shouldn't be charged more than your plan's copayments, coinsurance and/or deductible.

What is "balance billing" (sometimes called "surprise billing")?

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

"Out-of-network" means providers and facilities that haven't signed a contract with your health plan to provide services. Out-of-network providers may be 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 plan's deductible annual out-of-pocket limit.

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

You're 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 they can bill you is your plan's in-network cost-sharing amount (such as copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles). You **can't** be balance billed for these emergency services. This includes services you may get after you're in stable condition, unless you give written consent and give up your protections not to be balance billed for these post-stabilization services.

As of August 2022, the following 18 states had enacted comprehensive Balance Billing Protections: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon Texas, Virginia, Washington.

As of August 2022, the following 15 states had enacted limited Balance-Billing Protections: Arizona, Delaware, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia.

Generally, those state passed protections apply to fully insured medical plans governed by the specific state and not self-funded medical plans. Check the state insurance commissioner website for details on specific state laws.

If your state is not listed, check your state commissioner's website as states may adopt a surprising billing mandate at any time.

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 types of 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.

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

- You're only responsible for paying your share of the cost (like the copayments, coinsurance, and deductible that you would pay if the provider or facility was in-network). Your health plan will pay any additional costs to out-of-network providers and facilities directly.
- Generally, your health plan must:
 - Cover emergency services without requiring you to get approval for services in advance (also known as "prior authorization").
 - Cover emergency services by out-of-network providers.
 - Base what you owe the provider or facility (cost-sharing) on what it would pay an in network provider or facility and show that amount in your explanation of benefits.
 - Count any amount you pay for emergency services or out-of-network services toward your in-network deductible and out-of-pocket limit.

If you think you've been wrongly billed, you may contact the US Dept. of Health & Human Services at 1-877-696-6775 or your State Insurance Commissioner.

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way, unless specifically incorporated into a contract. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law.