

Washington County School District

Group Health Plan Notices

Annual Required Legal Notices and Disclosures for Plan Participants

The following notices provide important information about your employer provided group health plan. Please read the notices carefully and keep a copy for your records. If you have any questions regarding these notices, please contact Human Resources or the plan administrator at marci.ware@washk12.org or 435-673-3533 x5105.

Medicare Part D Notice

Important Notice About Your [Creditable Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare](#) **If you or any of your eligible dependents are eligible for Medicare, or will soon become eligible for Medicare, please read this notice. If not, 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 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 prescription 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. Your employer has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered is expected to pay, on average, 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 prescription drug plan.

Please contact Human Resources for more information about what happens to your coverage if you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan.

Individuals who are eligible for Medicare should compare their current coverage, including which drugs are covered, with the coverage and cost of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in their area. Your medical benefits brochure contains a description of your current prescription drug benefits. If you are eligible for Medicare and do decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and drop your employer's group health plan prescription drug coverage, be aware that you and your dependents may not be able to get this coverage back.

When will you pay a higher premium (penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan?

You should also know that if you drop or lose your current coverage with your employer and don't join a Medicare prescription 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 Human Resources for further information.

NOTE: You will receive this notice annually, before the next period you can join a Medicare prescription 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 the Social Security Administration (SSA) online at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call SSA 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 prescription 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

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. If you would like more information on WHCRA benefits, contact the plan administrator.

Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act (NMHPA) Notice

The Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act (NMHPA) 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.

HIPAA Non-Discrimination Requirements

The Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) prohibits group health plans and health insurance

issuers from discriminating against individuals in eligibility and continued eligibility for benefits and in

individual premium or contribution rates based on health factors.

These health factors include: health status, medical condition (including both physical and mental illnesses), claims experience, receipt of health care, medical history, genetic information, evidence of insurability (including conditions arising out of acts of domestic violence and participation in activities such as motorcycling, snowmobiling, all-terrain vehicle riding, horseback riding, skiing, and other similar activities), and disability.

Notice of HIPAA Special Enrollment Rights

A federal law called HIPAA requires that we notify you of your right to enroll in the plan under its "special enrollment provision" if you acquire a new dependent, or if you decline coverage under this plan for yourself or an eligible dependent while other coverage is in effect and later lose that other coverage for certain qualifying reasons.

Special Enrollment Provisions

Loss of Other Coverage (Except Medicaid or a State Children's Health Insurance Program).

If you decline enrollment for yourself or for an eligible dependent (including your spouse) while other health insurance or group health plan coverage is in effect, 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).

Loss of Eligibility Under Medicaid or a State Children's Health Insurance Program. If you decline enrollment for yourself or for an eligible dependent (including your spouse) while Medicaid coverage or coverage under a state children's health insurance program is in

effect, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after your or your dependents' coverage ends under Medicaid or a state children's health insurance program.

New Dependent by Marriage, Birth, Adoption, or Placement for Adoption. 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 new dependents. However, you must request enrollment within 30 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

Eligibility for Medicaid or a State Children's Health Insurance Program. If you or your dependents (including your spouse) become eligible for a state premium assistance subsidy from Medicaid or through a state children's health insurance program with respect to coverage under this plan, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after your or your dependents' determination of eligibility for such assistance.

Other mid-year election changes may be permitted under your plan (refer to "Permitted Midyear Election Changes" section below).

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact Human Resources.

Permitted Midyear Election Changes

Due to Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations, in order to be eligible to take your premium contribution using pre-tax dollars, your election generally must be irrevocable for the entire plan year (with the exception of HSA benefit elections, for which prospective election changes generally are allowed). As a result, your enrollment in the medical, dental, and vision plans or declination of coverage when you are first eligible, will generally remain in place until the next open enrollment period, unless you have an approved election change event and certain other conditions are met as outlined in IRS Code Section 125. See your Section 125 premium conversion plan summary plan description (SPD) for further details and a complete listing of permitted change in election events.

Examples of permitted change in election events include:

- Change in legal marital status (e.g., marriage, divorce, annulment, or legal separation)
- Change in number of dependents (e.g., birth, adoption, or death)
- Change in your employment status or your spouse's or covered child's change in employment (e.g., reduction in hours affecting eligibility or change in employment)
- Your child satisfies or ceases to satisfy the requirements for coverage due to attainment of age, student status, or any similar circumstance as provided in the plan under which you receive coverage
- You and/or your spouse or covered child has a change of residence
- Your spouse or covered child makes an election change during an open enrollment period under his or her employer's cafeteria plan, but only if the change under this Plan is consistent with and on account of your spouse's or covered child's change.
- Enrollment in state-based insurance Exchange
- Medicare Part A or B enrollment

These are just some examples of permitted mid-year change in election events. Consult with Human Resources for other circumstances that may be permissible mid-year change in election events.

You must notify Human Resources within 30 days of the above change in status, with the exception of the loss of eligibility or enrollment in Medicaid or state health insurance programs - which requires notice within 60 days.

HIPAA Privacy Notice Notice of Health Information

Privacy Practices

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

This notice is required by law under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). One of its primary purposes is to make certain that information about your health is handled with special respect for your privacy. HIPAA includes numerous provisions designed to maintain the privacy and confidentiality of your protected health information (PHI). PHI is health information that contains identifiers, such as your name, address, social security number, or other information that identifies you.

How the Health Plan Uses and Discloses Protected Health Information

Under HIPAA, we may use or disclose protected health information (PHI) under certain circumstances without your permission, provided that the legal requirements applicable to the use or disclosure are followed. The following categories describe the different ways that we may use and disclose your PHI. Not every use or disclosure in a category will be listed. However, all the ways permitted to use and disclose information will fall within one of the categories. Most of the time we will use, disclose, and request only the minimum information necessary for these purposes.

For treatment. The plan may use or disclose PHI to facilitate medical treatment or services by health providers. The Health Plan may disclose health information about you to health care providers, including doctors, nurses, technicians, or hospital personnel who need the information to take care of you. For example, the plan might disclose information about your prior prescriptions to a pharmacist to determine if a pending prescription conflicts with your current prescriptions.

For payment. The plan may use or disclose PHI to make payments to health care providers who are taking care of you. The plan may also use and disclose PHI to determine your eligibility for plan benefits, to evaluate the plan's benefit responsibility, and to coordinate plan coverage with other coverage you may have. For example, the plan may share information with health care providers to determine whether the plan will cover a particular treatment. The plan may also share your PHI with another organization to assist with financial recoveries from responsible third parties

For health care operations. The plan may use and disclose PHI to run the plan. For example, the plan may use PHI in connection with quality assessment and improvement activities; care coordination and case management; underwriting, premium rating, and other activities relating to plan coverage; submitting claims for stop-loss (or excess-loss) coverage; conducting or arranging for medical review, legal services, audit services, and fraud and abuse detection programs; business planning and development such as cost management; and business management and general plan administrative activities. However, the plan will not use genetic information for underwriting purposes.

To Business Associates. The plan may contract with third parties, known as "Business Associates," to perform various functions or provide various services on behalf of the plan. To perform these functions or to provide these services, Business Associates may receive, create, maintain, transmit, use, and disclose protected health information, but only after they agree in writing to safeguard PHI and respect your HIPAA rights. For example, the plan may disclose PHI to a third-party administrator to process claims for plan benefits.

As required by law. We will disclose health information about you when required to do so by federal, state or local law.

To prevent a serious threat to health or safety. The plan may use and disclose PHI when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety, or the health and safety of the public or another person. Any disclosure, however, would only be to someone able to help prevent the threat.

To the employer. The plan may disclose PHI to certain employees of the Employer who are involved with plan administration. These employees are permitted to use or disclose PHI only to perform plan administration functions or as otherwise permitted or required by HIPAA, unless you have authorized further disclosures. PHI cannot be used for employment purposes without your specific authorization.

Workers' compensation. The plan may disclose PHI for workers' compensation or similar programs, but only as authorized by, and to the extent necessary to comply with, laws relating to workers' compensation and similar programs that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.

Public health. The plan may disclose PHI for public health activities, including, for example, to prevent or control disease, injury, or disability; or to report child abuse or neglect.

Health oversight. The plan may disclose PHI to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law, including, for example, audits, investigations, inspections, and licensure. These activities are necessary for the government to monitor the health care system, government programs, and compliance with civil rights laws.

Lawsuits and disputes. The plan may disclose PHI in response to a court or administrative order, subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process.

Law enforcement. The plan may disclose PHI if asked to do so by a law-enforcement official in certain limited circumstances.

Family members. The plan may disclose PHI to a family member or close personal friend who is involved in your care or payment for your care or for notification purposes. Generally, you will have an opportunity to object to these disclosures. With only limited exceptions, all mail regarding the plan will be sent to the employee unless we have agreed otherwise. This includes mail relating to participation of the employee's spouse and other family members in the plan, such as availability of plan benefits and information on the processing of any plan benefits (including explanations of benefits (EOBs)).

Coroners, medical examiners, and funeral directors. The plan may disclose PHI to a coroner, medical examiner, or funeral director, as necessary for them to carry out their duties.

National security and intelligence activities. The plan may disclose PHI to authorized federal officials for national security activities authorized by law.

Military. The plan may disclose PHI as required by military and veterans authorities if you are or were a member of the uniformed services.

Research. In very limited situations, the plan may disclose protected health information to researchers; however, usually we will need to get your authorization.

Compliance with HIPAA. The plan is required to disclose PHI to the United States Department of Health and Human Services when requested to determine compliance with HIPAA.

Authorizations. Other uses or disclosures of PHI not described above will be made only with your written authorization. For example, the plan generally needs your authorization to disclose psychiatric notes about you; to use or disclose PHI for marketing; or to sell PHI. You may revoke your authorizations at any time, so long as the revocation is in writing. However, the revocation will not be effective for any uses or disclosures made in reliance upon the authorization.

Your Rights

You have the rights described below with respect to PHI about you, subject to certain conditions and exceptions.

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

Get a list of those with whom we've shared information. You can ask for a list (accounting) of the times we've shared your health information for six years prior to the

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

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

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

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

Your Choices

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

In these cases, you have both the right and choice to tell us to: (1) Share information with your family, close friends, or others involved in payment for your care. (2) Share information in a disaster relief situation. (3) Contact you for fundraising efforts. If you are not able to tell us your preference, for example if you are unconscious, we may go ahead and share your information if we believe it is in your best interest. We may also share your information when needed to lessen a serious and imminent threat to health or safety.

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

(1) Marketing purposes. (2) Sale of your information.

The Plan's Responsibilities

The plan is required to:

- Maintain the privacy and security of your PHI.
- Let you know promptly if a breach occurs that may have compromised the privacy or security of your information.
- Follow the duties and privacy practices described in this notice and give you a copy of it.
- Will not use or share your information other than as described here unless you tell us we can in writing. If you tell us we can, you may change your mind at any time. Let us know in writing if you change your mind.

More Information

- If you have questions or would like additional information, or if you would like to make a request to inspect, copy, or amend health information, or for an accounting of disclosures, contact Human Resources and the plan privacy officer. All requests must be submitted in writing.
- If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you can file a formal complaint with the plan privacy officer, or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.
- The plan reserves the right to change the terms of this notice and to make new provisions effective for all PHI that the plan maintains, including PHI created or received prior to any revision. If significant changes are made, the plan will furnish you with a revised copy.

Important Information on How Health Care Reform Impacts Your Plan

Primary Care Provider Designations

For plans and issuers that require or allow for the designation of primary care providers by participants or beneficiaries:

- Your plan generally requires the designation of a primary care provider. You have the right to designate any primary care provider who participates in our network and who is available to accept you or your family members. For information on how to select a primary care provider, and for a list of the participating primary care providers, contact your Human Resources office.

For plans and issuers that require or allow for the designation of a primary care provider for a child:

- For children, you may designate a pediatrician as the primary care provider. For plans and issuers that provide coverage for obstetric or gynecological care and require the designation by a participant or beneficiary of a primary care provider:
- You do not need prior authorization from your insurance provider or from any other person (including a primary care provider) in order to obtain access to obstetric or gynecological care from a health care professional in our network who specializes in obstetrics or gynecology. The health care professional, however, may be required to comply with certain procedures, including obtaining prior authorization for certain services, following a pre-approved treatment plan, or procedures for making referrals. For a list of participating health care professionals who specialize in obstetrics or gynecology, contact your Human Resources office.

Grandfathered Plans

If your group health plan is grandfathered, then the following will apply. As permitted by the Affordable Care Act, a grandfathered health plan can preserve certain basic health

coverage that was already in effect when that law was enacted. Being a grandfathered health plan means that your plan may not include certain consumer protections of the Affordable Care Act that apply to other plans, for example, the requirement for the provision of preventive health services without any cost sharing. However, grandfathered health plans must comply with certain other consumer protections in the Affordable Care Act, for example, the elimination of lifetime limits on benefits.

Questions regarding which protections apply and which protections do not apply to a grandfathered health plan and what might cause a plan to change from grandfathered health plan status can be directed to Human Resources.

Prohibition on Excess Waiting Periods

Group health plans may not apply a waiting period that exceeds 90 days. A waiting period is defined as the

period that must pass before coverage for an eligible employee or his or her dependent becomes effective under the Plan.

Prohibition on Preexisting Condition Exclusions

Effective for Plan Years on or after January 1, 2014, Group health plans are prohibited from denying coverage or excluding specific benefits from coverage due to an individual's preexisting condition, regardless of the individual's age. A preexisting condition includes any health condition or illness that is present before the coverage effective date, regardless of whether medical advice or treatment was actually received or recommended.

New Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage

General Information. When key parts of the health care law took 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 for coverage starting as early as January.

Can I Save Money on my Health Insurance Premiums in the Marketplace? You may qualify to save money and lower your monthly premium, but only if your employer does not offer coverage, or offers coverage that doesn't meet certain standards. The savings on your premium that you're eligible for depends on your household income.

Does Employer Health Coverage Affect Eligibility for Premium Savings through the Marketplace? Yes. If you have an offer of health coverage from your employer that meets certain standards, you will not be eligible for a tax credit through the Marketplace and may wish to enroll in your employer's health plan. However, you may be eligible for a tax credit that lowers your monthly premium, or a reduction in certain cost-sharing if your employer does not offer coverage to you at all or does not offer coverage that meets certain standards. If the cost of a plan from your employer that would cover you (and not any other members of your family) is more than 9.5% of your household income for the year, or if the coverage your employer provides does not meet the "minimum value" standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit.

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

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

Employee Rights & Responsibilities under the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

The FMLA only applies to employers that meet certain criteria. A covered employer is a:

- **Private-sector employer with 50 or more employees in 20 or more workweeks in the current or preceding calendar year (including a joint employer or successor in interest).**
- **Public agency (including a local, state, or Federal government agency) regardless of number of employees.**
- **Public or private elementary or secondary school, regardless of number of employees.**

Leave Entitlement

Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job

protected leave in a 12-month period to eligible employees for the following reasons:

- The birth of a child or placement of a child for adoption or foster care;
- To bond with a child (leave must be taken within one year of the child's birth or placement);
- To care for the employee's spouse, child, or parent who has a qualifying serious health condition;

- For the employee's own qualifying serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the employee's job;
- For qualifying exigencies related to the foreign deployment of a military member who is the employee's spouse, child, or parent.

An eligible employee who is a covered servicemember's spouse, child, parent, or next of kin may also take up to 26 weeks of FMLA leave in a single 12-month period to care for the servicemember with a serious injury or illness.

An employee does not need to use leave in one block. When it is medically necessary or otherwise permitted, employees may take leave intermittently or on a reduced schedule.

Employees may choose, or an employer may require, use of accrued paid leave while taking FMLA leave. If an employee substitutes accrued paid leave for FMLA leave, the employee must comply with the employer's normal paid leave policies.

Benefits & Protections

While employees are on FMLA leave, employers must continue health insurance coverage as if the employees were not on leave.

Upon return from FMLA leave, most employees must be restored to the same job or one nearly identical to it with equivalent pay, benefits, and other employment terms and conditions.

An employer may not interfere with an individual's FMLA rights or retaliate against someone for using or trying to use FMLA leave, opposing any practice made unlawful by the FMLA, or being involved in any proceeding under or related to the FMLA.

Eligibility Requirements

An employee who works for a covered employer must meet three criteria in order to be eligible for FMLA leave. The employee must:

- Have worked for the employer for at least 12 months;
- Have at least 1,250 hours of service in the 12 months before taking leave;* and
- Work at a location where the employer has at least 50 employees within 75 miles of the employee's worksite.

*Special "hours of service" requirements apply to airline flight crew employees.

Requesting Leave

Generally, employees must give 30-days' advance notice of the need for FMLA leave. If it is not possible to give 30-days' notice, an employee must notify the employer as soon as possible and, generally, follow the employer's usual procedures.

Employees do not have to share a medical diagnosis but must provide enough information to the employer so it can determine if the leave qualifies for FMLA protection. Sufficient information could include informing an employer that the employee is or will be unable to perform his or her job functions, that a family member cannot perform daily activities, or that hospitalization or continuing medical treatment is necessary. Employees must inform the employer if the need for leave is for a reason for which FMLA leave was previously taken or certified.

Employers can require a certification or periodic recertification supporting the need for leave. If the employer determines that the certification is incomplete, it must provide a written notice indicating what additional information is required.

Employer Responsibilities

Once an employer becomes aware that an employee's need for leave is for a reason that may qualify under the FMLA, the employer must notify the employee if he or she is eligible for FMLA leave and, if eligible, must also provide a notice of rights and responsibilities under the FMLA. If the employee is not eligible, the employer must provide a reason for ineligibility.

Employers must notify its employees if leave will be designated as FMLA leave, and if so, how much leave will be designated as FMLA leave.

Enforcement

Employees may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division, or may bring a private lawsuit against an employer.

The FMLA does not affect any federal or state law prohibiting discrimination or supersede any state or local law or collective bargaining agreement that provides greater family or medical leave rights.

For additional information or to file a complaint:

(866) 4US-WAGE ((866) 487-9243) TTY: (877) 889-5627

www.wagehour.dol.gov

Notice of Right to Continued Coverage under Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)

Right to Continue Coverage

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.

USERRA continuation group health plan coverage is considered alternative group health plan coverage for purposes of COBRA. Therefore, if you elect USERRA continuation coverage, COBRA continuation group health plan coverage will not be available.

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.

How to Continue Coverage

If the conditions are met, you (or your authorized representative) may elect to continue your coverage (and the coverage of your covered dependents, if any) under the Plan by completing and returning an Election Form 60 days after date that USERRA election notice is mailed, and by paying the applicable premium for your coverage as described below.

What Happens if You Do Not Elect to Continue Coverage?

If you fail to submit a timely, completed Election Form as instructed or do not make a premium payment within the required time, you will lose your continuation rights under the Plan, unless compliance with these requirements is precluded by military necessity or is otherwise impossible or unreasonable under the circumstances.

If you do not elect continuation coverage, your coverage (and the coverage of your covered dependents, if any) under the Plan ends effective the end of the month in which you stop working due to your leave for uniformed service.

Premium for Continuing Your Coverage

The premium that you must pay to continue your coverage depends on your period of service in the uniformed services. Contact Human Resources for more details.

Medicare and Health Savings Accounts (HSAs)

If you are approaching Medicare eligibility and you currently contribute to a Health Savings Account (HSA) that is integrated with a High Deduction Health Plan (HDHP), it is important to understand how HSA eligibility rules and Medicare enrollment interact. An individual is not eligible to make HSA contributions (nor eligible to have employer contributions made to their HSA) if the individual has other coverage including being enrolled in Medicare. An individual who is enrolled in Medicare is not eligible for continued HSA contributions, however, funds that existed in the HSA prior to Medicare enrollment may continue to be used for ongoing medical expenses.

It is important to be aware that Medicare enrollment based on age or disability cannot be waived by individuals who are receiving Social Security benefits. However, Medicare enrollment may be delayed by delaying the receipt of Social Security benefits. For those that delay applying for Medicare, enrollment is generally retroactive for up to six months (that is, Medicare coverage will begin up to six months prior to the month in which they applied). Because the first month of Medicare enrollment will be retroactive for individuals who delay applying for Medicare, those individuals should use extra care when determining the amount of their HSA contributions to avoid excess contributions and possible adverse tax consequences.