



New Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage

Form Approved
OMB No. 1210-0149
(expires 6-30-2023)

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 ECC Human Resources Benefits Department- (847) 214-7988 or (847) 214-7125

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

¹ An employer-sponsored health plan meets the "minimum value standard" if the plan's share of the total allowed benefit costs covered by the plan is no less than 60 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 Elgin Community College District #509		4. Employer Identification Number (EIN) 36-2600170	
5. Employer address 1700 Spartan Drive		6. Employer phone number (847) 214-7988 / (847) 214-7125	
7. City Elgin	8. State IL	9. ZIP code 60123-7193	
10. Who can we contact about employee health coverage at this job? Human Resources- Benefits			
11. Phone number (if different from above)		12. Email address Lgemelli@elgin.edu	

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

- As your employer, we offer a health plan to:

All employees. Eligible employees are:

Some employees. Eligible employees are:

A full-time employee who is regularly scheduled to work a minimum of 35/40 hours per week and who is on the permanent payroll of the Employer.

- With respect to dependents:

We do offer coverage. Eligible dependents are:

Spouse, Civil Union Partner, Domestic Partner, Children

We do not offer coverage.

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.



Nuevas opciones de cobertura en el mercado de seguros médicos y su cobertura médica

Formulario aprobado
OMB N.º 1210-0149
(caduca el 30-6-2023)

PARTE A: Información general

Cuando entren en vigencia las partes clave de la ley de salud en el 2014, habrá una nueva forma de adquirir seguros médicos: a través del mercado de seguros médicos. A fin de ayudarle mientras evalúa las opciones para usted y su familia, este aviso brinda información básica sobre el nuevo mercado y la cobertura médica basada en el empleo que brinda su empleador.

¿Qué es el mercado de seguros médicos?

El mercado está diseñado para ayudarle a encontrar un seguro médico que satisfaga sus necesidades y se ajuste a su presupuesto. El mercado ofrece opciones de compra en un solo sitio, para buscar y comparar opciones de seguros médicos privados. También es posible que sea elegible para un nuevo tipo de crédito tributario que reduce su prima mensual de inmediato. El periodo de inscripción para la cobertura de seguro médico a través del mercado comienza en octubre del 2013 para la cobertura que comienza el 1.º de enero del 2014.

¿Puedo ahorrar dinero en las primas del seguro médico que ofrece el mercado?

Es posible que tenga la oportunidad de ahorrar dinero y reducir su prima mensual, pero solo si su empleador no ofrece cobertura médica u ofrece una cobertura que no cumple con determinadas normas. Los ahorros en la prima por la cual puede ser elegible dependen de los ingresos de su familia.

¿La cobertura médica del empleador afecta la elegibilidad para los ahorros en la prima a través del mercado?

Sí. Si su empleador brinda cobertura médica que cumple con determinadas normas, no será elegible para un crédito tributario a través del mercado y es posible que desee inscribirse en el plan de salud de su empleador. No obstante, es posible que sea elegible para un crédito tributario que reduce la prima mensual o para una reducción en la cuota de los costos si su empleador no brinda cobertura o no brinda cobertura que cumple con determinadas normas. Si el costo del plan de su empleador que le brindaría cobertura a usted (y no, a los demás miembros de la familia) supera el 9.5 % del ingreso anual de su familia, o si la cobertura médica que brinda su empleador no cumple con la norma de "valor mínimo" establecida por la Ley del Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Precio (Affordable Care Act o ACA, por sus siglas en inglés), es posible que sea elegible para un crédito tributario.¹

Nota: Si adquiere un plan de salud a través del mercado en lugar de aceptar la cobertura médica que brinda su empleador, es posible que pierda las contribuciones (si las hay) que el empleador da para la cobertura médica que brinda. Además, las contribuciones del empleador (así como sus contribuciones como empleado para la cobertura médica que brinda el empleador) a menudo se excluyen del ingreso sujeto impuesto federal y estatal. Los pagos para la cobertura médica a través del mercado se realizan después de impuestos.

¿Cómo puedo obtener más información?

Para obtener más información sobre la cobertura que brinda el empleador, consulte el resumen de la descripción del Plan o comuníquese con Departamento de Recursos Humanos-ECC- (847) 214-7125 o (847) 214-7988.

El mercado puede ayudarlo a evaluar sus opciones de cobertura, incluida su elegibilidad para la cobertura a través del mercado y sus costos. Visite CuidadoDeSalud.gov para obtener más información, incluida una solicitud en línea de cobertura de seguros médicos e información de contacto para un mercado de seguros médicos en su área.

¹ Un plan de salud patrocinado por el empleador cumple con la "norma de valor mínimo" si la participación del plan en los costos totales de beneficios permitidos cubiertos por el plan no es inferior al 60 por ciento de dichos costos.

PARTE B: Información sobre la cobertura médica que brinda su empleador

Esta sección incluye información sobre la cobertura médica que brinda su empleador. Si decide completar una solicitud de cobertura médica en el mercado, deberá brindar esta información. Esta información está enumerada de forma tal que coincida con la solicitud del mercado.

3. Nombre del empleador Elgin Community College District #509		4. Número de identificación del empleador (EIN, por sus siglas en inglés) 36-2600170	
5. Dirección del empleador 1700 Spartan Drive		6. Número de teléfono del empleador (847) 214-7125 / (847) 214-7988	
7. Ciudad Elgin	8. Estado IL	9. Código postal 60123-7193	
10. ¿Con quién podemos comunicarnos en relación con la cobertura médica del empleado en este empleo? Departamento de Beneficios de Recursos Humanos			
11. Número de teléfono (si difiere del que figura arriba)		12. Dirección de correo electrónico lgemelli@elgin.edu	

A continuación, encontrará información básica sobre la cobertura médica que brinda este empleador:

- Como su empleador, ofrecemos un plan de salud para los siguientes:

- Todos los empleados.
- Algunos empleados. Los empleados elegibles son los siguientes:

Un empleado de tiempo completo que regularmente está programado a trabajar un mínimo de 35/40 horas por semana y que está en la nómina permanente del empleador.

- En cuanto a los dependientes:

- Sí ofrecemos cobertura médica. Los dependientes elegibles son los siguientes:

Cónyuge, Compañero Civil, Pareja de Hecho, Hijos

- No ofrecemos cobertura médica.

- Si marca esta opción, esta cobertura médica cumple con la norma de valor mínimo. Asimismo, el costo de la cobertura se pretende que sea asequible para usted según los salarios de los empleados.

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Incluso si el objetivo de su empleador es brindarle cobertura asequible, es posible que sea elegible para obtener un descuento en la prima a través del mercado. El mercado utilizará el ingreso de su grupo familiar, junto con otros factores, para determinar si es elegible para recibir un descuento en la prima. Si, por ejemplo, sus salarios varían de una semana a la otra (tal vez es un empleado por hora o trabaja con comisiones), si fue contratado recientemente a mitad de año o si tiene otras pérdidas de ingreso, aún así es posible que reúna los requisitos para recibir un descuento en la prima.

Si decide adquirir cobertura a través del mercado, visite [CuidadoDeSalud.gov](https://www.CuidadoDeSalud.gov) para obtener instrucciones sobre cómo hacerlo. Aquí encontrará la información del empleador que debe ingresar cuando visita [CuidadoDeSalud.gov](https://www.CuidadoDeSalud.gov) para saber si puede obtener un crédito tributario para reducir las primas mensuales.



TO: All Employees Eligible for Medicare Part D and Currently Participating in the ECC Group Health Plan
FROM: Employee Benefits Department
RE: **Annual Notice – Medicare Part D – Creditable Coverage**

Important Notice from Elgin Community College 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 Elgin Community College's group health plan 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. Elgin Community College has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois group health plan (including both the HMO and PPO plans) 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 through 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 Elgin Community College coverage will not be affected. Your current Elgin Community College coverage pays for other health expenses in addition to prescription drugs. If you enroll in a Medicare prescription plan, you and your eligible dependents may still be eligible to receive all your current health and prescription drug benefits.



If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Elgin Community College coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will be able to get this coverage back, subject to the plan's enrollment rights.

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 Elgin Community College 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...

Please contact the Benefits Office of Human Resources at (847) 214-7988 or (847) 214-7125.

NOTE: You'll get this notice each year before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan and if this coverage through Elgin Community College changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time and it will be available on e-NET.

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).

Date:	August 10, 2022
Name of Entity/Sender:	Elgin Community College
Contact--Position/Office:	Employee Benefits Office
Address:	1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin, IL 60123-1793
Phone Number:	(847) 214-7988 or (847) 214-7125

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, 2019. Contact your State for more information on eligibility –

ALABAMA – Medicaid	FLORIDA – Medicaid
Website: http://myalhipp.com/ Phone: 1-855-692-5447	Website: http://flmedicaidtplrecovery.com/hipp/ Phone: 1-877-357-3268
ALASKA – Medicaid	GEORGIA – Medicaid
The AK Health Insurance Premium Payment Program Website: http://myakhipp.com/ Phone: 1-866-251-4861 Email: CustomerService@MyAKHIP.com Medicaid Eligibility: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/medicaid/default.aspx	Website: https://medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp Phone: 678-564-1162 ext 2131
ARKANSAS – Medicaid	INDIANA – Medicaid
Website: http://myarhipp.com/ Phone: 1-855-MyARHIPP (855-692-7447)	Healthy Indiana Plan for low-income adults 19-64 Website: http://www.in.gov/fssa/hip/ Phone: 1-877-438-4479 All other Medicaid Website: http://www.indianamedicaid.com Phone 1-800-403-0864
COLORADO – Health First Colorado (Colorado’s Medicaid Program) & Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+)	IOWA – Medicaid
Health First Colorado Website: https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/ Health First Colorado Member Contact Center: 1-800-221-3943/ State Relay 711 CHP+: https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/child-health-plan-plus CHP+ Customer Service: 1-800-359-1991/ State Relay 711	Website: http://dhs.iowa.gov/Hawki Phone: 1-800-257-8563

KANSAS – Medicaid	NEW HAMPSHIRE – Medicaid
Website: http://www.kdheks.gov/hcf/ Phone: 1-785-296-3512	Website: https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oii/hipp.htm Phone: 603-271-5218 Toll free number for the HIPP program: 1-800-852-3345, ext 5218
KENTUCKY – Medicaid	NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: https://chfs.ky.gov Phone: 1-800-635-2570	Medicaid Website: http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/ Medicaid Phone: 609-631-2392 CHIP Website: http://www.njfamilycare.org/index.html CHIP Phone: 1-800-701-0710
LOUISIANA – Medicaid	NEW YORK – Medicaid
Website: http://dh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/subhome/1/n/331 Phone: 1-888-695-2447	Website: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/ Phone: 1-800-541-2831
MAINE – Medicaid	NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid
Website: http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/public-assistance/index.html Phone: 1-800-442-6003 TTY: Maine relay 711	Website: https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/ Phone: 919-855-4100
MASSACHUSETTS – Medicaid and CHIP	NORTH DAKOTA – Medicaid
Website: http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/masshealth/ Phone: 1-800-862-4840	Website: http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/medicalserv/medicaid/ Phone: 1-844-854-4825
MINNESOTA – Medicaid	OKLAHOMA – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/seniors/health-care/health-care-programs/programs-and-services/other-insurance.jsp Phone: 1-800-657-3739	Website: http://www.insureoklahoma.org Phone: 1-888-365-3742
MISSOURI – Medicaid	OREGON – Medicaid
Website: http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm Phone: 573-751-2005	Website: http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx http://www.oregonhealthcare.gov/index-es.html Phone: 1-800-699-9075
MONTANA – Medicaid	PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid
Website: http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP Phone: 1-800-694-3084	Website: http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/medicalassistance/healthinsurancepremiumpaymenthippprogram/index.htm Phone: 1-800-692-7462
NEBRASKA – Medicaid	RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov Phone: (855) 632-7633 Lincoln: (402) 473-7000 Omaha: (402) 595-1178	Website: http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/ Phone: 855-697-4347, or 401-462-0311 (Direct RIte Share Line)
NEVADA – Medicaid	SOUTH CAROLINA – Medicaid
Medicaid Website: https://dhcfp.nv.gov Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900	Website: https://www.scdhhs.gov Phone: 1-888-549-0820

<p align="center">SOUTH DAKOTA - Medicaid</p> <p>Website: http://dss.sd.gov Phone: 1-888-828-0059</p>	<p align="center">WASHINGTON – Medicaid</p> <p>Website: https://www.hca.wa.gov/ Phone: 1-800-562-3022 ext. 15473</p>
<p align="center">TEXAS – Medicaid</p> <p>Website: http://gethipptexas.com/ Phone: 1-800-440-0493</p>	<p align="center">WEST VIRGINIA – Medicaid</p> <p>Website: http://mywvhipp.com/ Toll-free phone: 1-855-MyWVHIPP (1-855-699-8447)</p>
<p align="center">UTAH – Medicaid and CHIP</p> <p>Medicaid Website: https://medicaid.utah.gov/ CHIP Website: http://health.utah.gov/chip Phone: 1-877-543-7669</p>	<p align="center">WISCONSIN – Medicaid and CHIP</p> <p>Website: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p1/p10095.pdf Phone: 1-800-362-3002</p>
<p align="center">VERMONT– Medicaid</p> <p>Website: http://www.greenmountaincare.org/ Phone: 1-800-250-8427</p>	<p align="center">WYOMING – Medicaid</p> <p>Website: https://wyequalitycare.acs-inc.com/ Phone: 307-777-7531</p>
<p align="center">VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP</p> <p>Medicaid Website: http://www.coverva.org/programs_premium_assistance.cfm Medicaid Phone: 1-800-432-5924 CHIP Website: http://www.coverva.org/programs_premium_assistance.cfm CHIP Phone: 1-855-242-8282</p>	

To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since July 31, 2019, 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.



TO: All Employees Eligible for the ECC Group Health Plan
FROM: Employee Benefits Department
RE: **Annual Notice – Notice of Privacy**

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT COVERED PERSONS MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW COVERED PERSONS CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

This Notice of Privacy Practices (“Notice”) describes how protected health information may be used or disclosed by this Plan to carry out treatment, payment, health care operations and for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. This Notice also sets out this Plan’s legal obligations concerning a Covered Person’s protected health information and describes a Covered Person’s rights to access and control that protected health information.

Protected health information (“PHI”) is individually identifiable health information, including demographic information, collected from a Covered Person or created or received by a health care provider, a health plan, an employer (when functioning on behalf of the group health plan), or a health care clearinghouse and that relates to: (1) a Covered Person’s past, present or future physical or mental health or condition; (2) the provision of health care to a Covered Person; or (3) the past, present or future payment for the provision of health care to a Covered Person.

This Notice has been drafted to be consistent with what is known as the “HIPAA Privacy Rule,” and any of the terms not defined in this Notice should have the same meaning as they have in the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

If you have any questions or want additional information about the Notice or the policies and procedures described in the Notice, please contact your Group Health Plan Privacy Officer or Human Resources office.

THE PLAN’S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Plan is required by law to maintain the privacy of a Covered Person’s PHI. The Plan is obligated to provide you with a copy of this Notice of the Plan’s legal duties and of its privacy practices with respect to PHI, and the Plan must abide by the terms of this Notice. The Plan reserves the right to change the provisions of this Notice and make the new provisions effective for all PHI that is maintained. If the Plan makes a material change to this Notice, a revised Notice will be mailed to the address that the Plan has on record.

Bright Choice. Bright Future.



When using or disclosing PHI or when requesting PHI from another covered entity, the Plan will make reasonable efforts not to use, disclose or request more than the minimum amount of PHI necessary to accomplish the intended purpose of the use, disclosure or request, taking into consideration practical and technological limitations.

However, the minimum necessary standard will not apply in the following situations:

- disclosures to or requests by a health care provider for treatment;
- uses or disclosures made to the individual;
- disclosures made to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
- uses or disclosures that are required by law;
- uses or disclosures that are required for compliance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule; and
- uses or disclosures made pursuant to an authorization.

*This Notice does not apply to information that has been de-identified. De-identified information is health information that does not identify an individual and with respect to which there is no reasonable basis to believe that the information can be used to identify an individual. It is not individually identifiable health information.

Primary Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information

The following is a description of how the Plan is most likely to use/disclose a Covered Person's PHI.

- ***Treatment, Payment and Health Care Operations***

The Plan has the right to use and disclose a Covered Person's PHI for all activities that are included within the definitions of "treatment, payment and health care operations" as described in the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

- *Treatment*

The Plan will use or disclose PHI so that a Covered Person may seek treatment.

Treatment is the provision, coordination or management of health care and related services. It also includes, but is not limited to consultations and referrals between one or

more of a Covered Person's providers. For example, the Plan may disclose to a treating specialist the name of a Covered Person's primary care physician so that the specialist may request medical records from that primary care physician.

- *Payment*

The Plan will use or disclose PHI to pay claims for services provided to a Covered Person and to obtain stop loss reimbursements, if applicable, or to otherwise fulfill the Plan's responsibilities for coverage and providing benefits. For example, the Plan may disclose PHI when a provider requests information regarding a Covered Person's eligibility for coverage under this Plan, or the Plan may use PHI to determine if a treatment that was received was medically necessary.

- *Health Care Operations*



The Plan will use or disclose PHI to support its business functions. These functions include, but are not limited to quality assessment and improvement, reviewing provider performance, licensing, stop loss underwriting, business planning and business development. For example, the Plan may use or disclose PHI: (1) to provide a Covered Person with information about a disease management program; (2) to respond to a customer service inquiry from a Covered Person or (3) in connection with fraud and abuse detection and compliance programs.

- ***Business Associates***

The Plan contracts with individuals and entities (Business Associates) to perform various functions on its behalf or to provide certain types of services. To perform these functions or to provide the services, the Plan's Business Associates will receive, create, maintain, use or disclose PHI, but only after the Plan requires the Business Associates to agree in writing to contract terms designed to appropriately safeguard PHI. For example, the Plan may disclose PHI to a Business Associate to administer claims or to provide service support, utilization management, subrogation or pharmacy benefit management. Examples of the Plan's Business Associates would be its third party administrator, broker, preferred provider organization and utilization review vendor.

- ***Other Covered Entities***

The Plan may use or disclose PHI to assist health care providers in connection with their treatment or payment activities or to assist other covered entities in connection with payment activities and certain health care operations. For example, the Plan may disclose PHI to a health care provider when needed by the provider to render treatment to a Covered Person, and the Plan may disclose PHI to another covered entity to conduct health care operations in the areas of fraud and abuse detection or compliance, quality assurance and improvement activities or accreditation, certification, licensing or credentialing. This also means that the Plan may disclose or share PHI with other insurance carriers in order to coordinate benefits, if a Covered Person has coverage through another carrier.

- ***Plan Sponsor***

The Plan may disclose PHI to the Plan Sponsor of the group health plan for purposes of plan administration or pursuant to an authorization request signed by the Covered Person. Also, the Plan may use or disclose "summary health information" to the Plan Sponsor for obtaining premium bids or modifying, amending or terminating the group health plan. Summary health information summarizes the claims history, claims expenses or types of claims experienced by individuals for whom a Plan Sponsor has provided health benefits under a group health plan and from which identifying information has been deleted in accordance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

Potential Impact of State Law



The HIPAA Privacy Regulations generally do not “preempt” (or take precedence over) state privacy or other applicable laws that provide individuals greater privacy protections. As a result, to the extent state law applies, the privacy laws of a particular state, or other federal laws, rather than the HIPAA Privacy Regulations, might impose a privacy standard under which the Plan will be required to operate. For example, where such laws have been enacted, the Plan will follow more stringent state privacy laws that relate to uses and disclosures of PHI concerning HIV or AIDS, mental health, substance abuse/chemical dependency, genetic testing, reproductive rights, etc.

Other Possible Uses and Disclosures of PHI

The following is a description of other possible ways in which the Plan may (and is permitted to) use and/or disclose PHI.

- ***Required by Law***

The Plan may use or disclose PHI to the extent that federal law requires the use or disclosure. When used in this Notice, “required by law” is defined as it is in the HIPAA Privacy Rule. For example, the Plan may disclose PHI when required by national security laws or public health disclosure laws.

- ***Public Health Activities***

The Plan may use or disclose PHI for public health activities that are permitted or required by law. For example, the Plan may use or disclose information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability, or it may disclose such information to a public health authority authorized to receive reports of child abuse or neglect. The Plan also may disclose PHI, if directed by a public health authority, to a foreign government agency that is collaborating with the public health authority.

- ***Health Oversight Activities***

The Plan may disclose PHI to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law, such as: audits; investigations; inspections; licensure or disciplinary actions; or civil, administrative, or criminal proceedings or actions. Oversight agencies seeking this information include government agencies that oversee: (1) the health care system; (2) government benefit programs; (3) other government regulatory programs and (4) compliance with civil rights laws.

- ***Abuse or Neglect***

The Plan may disclose PHI to a government authority that is authorized by law to receive reports of abuse, neglect or domestic violence. Additionally, as required by law, the Plan may disclose to a governmental entity, authorized to receive such information, a Covered Person’s PHI if there is reason to believe that the Covered Person has been a victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence.



- **Legal Proceedings**

The Plan may disclose PHI: (1) in the course of any judicial or administrative proceeding; (2) in response to an order of a court or administrative tribunal (to the extent such disclosure is expressly authorized) and (3) in response to a subpoena, a discovery request, or other lawful process, once the Plan has met all administrative requirements of the HIPAA Privacy Rule. For example, the Plan may disclose PHI in response to a subpoena for such information, but only after first meeting certain conditions required by the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

- **Law Enforcement**

Under certain conditions, the Plan also may disclose PHI to law enforcement officials. For example, some of the reasons for such a disclosure may include, but not be limited to: (1) it is required by law or some other legal process; (2) it is necessary to locate or identify a suspect, fugitive, material witness, or missing person or (3) it is necessary to provide evidence of a crime.

- **Coroners, Medical Examiners, Funeral Directors, and Organ Donation**

The Plan may disclose PHI to a coroner or medical examiner for purposes of identifying a deceased person, determining a cause of death or for the coroner or medical examiner to perform other duties authorized by law. The Plan also may disclose, as authorized by law, information to funeral directors so that they may carry out their duties. Further, the Plan may disclose PHI to organizations that handle organ, eye or tissue donation and transplantation.

- **Research**

The Plan may disclose PHI to researchers when an institutional review board or privacy board has: (1) reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of the information and (2) approved the research.

- **To Prevent a Serious Threat to Health or Safety**

Consistent with applicable federal and state laws, the Plan may disclose PHI if there is reason to believe that the disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public. The Plan also may disclose PHI if it is necessary for law enforcement authorities to identify or apprehend an individual.

- **Military Activity and National Security, Protective Services**

Under certain conditions, the Plan may disclose PHI if Covered Persons are, or were, Armed Forces personnel for activities deemed necessary by appropriate military command authorities. If Covered Persons are members of foreign military service, the Plan may disclose, in certain circumstances, PHI to the foreign military authority. The Plan also may disclose PHI to authorized federal officials for conducting national security and intelligence activities, and for the protection of the President, other authorized persons or heads of state.



- ***Inmates***

If a Covered Person is an inmate of a correctional institution, the Plan may disclose PHI to the correctional institution or to a law enforcement official for: (1) the institution to provide health care to the Covered Person; (2) the Covered Person's health and safety and the health and safety of others or (3) the safety and security of the correctional institution.

- ***Workers' Compensation***

The Plan may disclose PHI to comply with workers' compensation laws and other similar programs that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illnesses.

- ***Others Involved in Your Health Care***

Using its best judgment, the Plan may make PHI known to a family member, other relative, close personal friend or other personal representative that the Covered Person identifies. Such use will be based on how involved the person is in the Covered Person's care or in the payment that relates to that care. The Plan may release information to parents or guardians, if allowed by law.

The Plan also may disclose PHI to an entity assisting in a disaster relief effort so that a Covered Person's family can be notified about his/her condition, status, and location. If a Covered Person is not present or able to agree to these disclosures of PHI, then, using its professional judgment, the Plan may determine whether the disclosure is in the Covered Person's best interest.

Required Disclosures of PHI

The following is a description of disclosures that the Plan is required by law to make.

- ***Disclosures to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*** The Plan is required to disclose PHI to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services when the Secretary is investigating or determining the Plan's compliance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

- ***Disclosures to Covered Persons***

The Plan is required to disclose to a Covered Person most of the PHI in a "designated record set" when that Covered Person requests access to this information. Generally, a designated record set contains medical and billing records, as well as other records that are used to make decisions about a Covered Person's health care benefits. The Plan also is required to provide, upon the Covered Person's request, an accounting of most disclosures of his/her PHI that are for reasons other than treatment, payment and health care operations and are not disclosed through a signed authorization.

The Plan will disclose a Covered Person's PHI to an individual who has been designated by



that Covered Person as his/her personal representative and who has qualified for such designation in accordance with relevant state law. However, before the Plan will disclose PHI to such a person, the Covered Person must submit a written notice of his/her designation, along with the documentation that supports his/her qualification (such as a power of attorney).

Even if the Covered Person designates a personal representative, the HIPAA Privacy Rule permits the Plan to elect not to treat that individual as the Covered Person's personal representative if a reasonable belief exists that: (1) the Covered Person has been, or may be, subjected to domestic violence, abuse or neglect by such person; (2) treating such person as his/her personal representative could endanger the Covered Person, or (3) the Plan determines, in the exercise of its professional judgment, that it is not in its best interest to treat that individual as the Covered Person's personal representative.

Other Uses and Disclosures of PHI

Other uses and disclosures of PHI that are not described previously will be made only with a Covered Person's written authorization. If the Covered Person provides the Plan with such an authorization, he/she may revoke the authorization in writing, and this revocation will be effective for future uses and disclosures of PHI. However, the revocation will not be effective for information that has already been used or disclosed, relying on the authorization.

A COVERED PERSON'S RIGHTS

The following is a description of a Covered Person's rights with respect to PHI:

- ***Right to Request a Restriction***

A Covered Person has the right to request a restriction on the PHI the Plan uses or discloses about him/her for treatment, payment or health care operations. The plan is not required to agree to any restriction that a Covered Person may request. If the Plan does agree to the restriction, it will comply with the restriction unless the information is needed to provide emergency treatment.

A Covered Person may request a restriction by contacting the individual or office referenced in the beginning of this Notice. It is important that the Covered Person directs his/her request for restriction to this individual or office so that the Plan can begin to process your request. Requests sent to individuals or offices other than the one indicated might delay processing the request.

The Plan will want to receive this information in writing and will instruct the Covered Person where to send the request when the Covered Person's call is received. In this request, it is important that the Covered Person states: (1) the information whose disclosure he/she wants to limit and (2) how he/she wants to limit the Plan's use and/or disclosure of the information.



• ***Right to Request Confidential Communications***

If a Covered Person believes that a disclosure of all or part of his/her PHI may endanger him/her that Covered Person may request that the Plan communicates with him/her regarding PHI in an alternative manner or at an alternative location. For example, the Covered Person may ask that the Plan only contact the Covered Person at a work address or via the Covered Person's work e-mail.

The Covered Person may request a restriction by contacting the individual or office referenced in the beginning of this Notice. It is important that the request for confidential communications is addressed to this individual or office so that the Plan can begin to process the request. Requests sent to individuals or offices other than the one indicated might delay processing the request.

The Plan will want to receive this information in writing and will instruct the Covered Person where to send a written request upon receiving a call. This written request should inform the Plan: (1) that he/she wants the Plan to communicate his/her PHI in an alternative manner or at an alternative location and (2) that the disclosure of all or part of this PHI in a manner inconsistent with these instructions would put the Covered Person in danger.

The Plan will accommodate a request for confidential communications that is reasonable and that states that the disclosure of all or part of a Covered Person's PHI could endanger that Covered Person. As permitted by the HIPAA Privacy Rule, "reasonableness" will (and is permitted to) include, when appropriate, making alternate arrangements regarding payment.

Accordingly, as a condition of granting a Covered Person's request, he/she will be required to provide the Plan information concerning how payment will be handled. For example, if the Covered Person submits a claim for payment, state or federal law (or the Plan's own contractual obligations) may require that the Plan disclose certain financial claim information to the Plan Participant under whose coverage a Covered Person may receive benefits (e.g., an Explanation of Benefits "EOB"). Unless the Covered Person has made other payment arrangements, the EOB (in which a Covered Person's PHI might be included) will be released to the Plan Participant.

Once the Plan receives all the information for such a request (along with the instructions for handling future communications), the request will be processed usually within two business days or as soon as reasonably possible.

Prior to receiving the information necessary for this request or during the time it takes to process it, PHI may be disclosed (such as through an EOB). Therefore, it is extremely important that the Covered Person contact the Plan at the number listed in this Notice as soon as the Covered Person determines the need to restrict disclosures of his/her PHI.



If the Covered Person terminates his/her request for confidential communications, the restriction will be removed for all of the Covered Person's PHI that the Plan holds, including PHI that was previously protected. Therefore, a Covered Person should not terminate a request for confidential communications if that person remains concerned that disclosure of PHI will endanger him/her.

Right to Inspect and Copy

A Covered Person has the right to inspect and copy PHI that is contained in a "designated record set." Generally, a designated record set contains medical and billing records, as well as other records that are used to make decisions about a Covered Person's health care benefits. However, the Covered Person may not inspect or copy psychotherapy notes or certain other information that may be contained in a designated record set.

To inspect and copy PHI that is contained in a designated record set, the Covered Person must submit a request by contacting the individual or office referenced in the beginning of this Notice. It is important that the Covered Person contact this individual or office to request an inspection and copying so that the Plan can begin to process the request. Requests sent to individuals or offices other than the one indicated might delay the processing of the request. If the Covered Person requests a copy of the information, the Plan may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing or other supplies associated with that request.

The Plan may deny a Covered Person's request to inspect and copy PHI in certain limited circumstances. If a Covered Person is denied access to information, he/she may request that the denial be reviewed. To request a review, the Covered Person must contact the individual or office referenced in the beginning of this Notice. A licensed health care professional chosen by the Plan will review the Covered Person's request and the denial. The person performing this review will not be the same one who denied the Covered Person's initial request. Under certain conditions, the Plan's denial will not be reviewable. If this event occurs, the Plan will inform the Covered Person through the denial that the decision is not reviewable.

• Right to Amend

If a Covered Person believes that his/her PHI is incorrect or incomplete, he/she may request that the Plan amend that information. The Covered Person may request that the Plan amend such information by contacting the individual or office referenced in the beginning of this Notice. Additionally, this request should include the reason the amendment is necessary. It is important that the Covered Person direct this request for amendment to this individual or office so that the Plan can begin to process the request. Requests sent to individuals or offices other than the one indicated might delay processing the request.



In certain cases, the Plan may deny the Covered Person's request for an amendment. For example, the Plan may deny the request if the information the Covered Person wants to amend is not maintained by the Plan, but by another entity. If the Plan denies the request, the Covered Person has the right to file a statement of disagreement with the Plan. This statement of disagreement will be linked with the disputed information and all future disclosures of the disputed information will include this statement.

• ***Right of an Accounting***

The Covered Person has a right to an accounting of certain disclosures of PHI that are for reasons other than treatment, payment or health care operations. No accounting of disclosures is required for disclosures made pursuant to a signed authorization by the Covered Person or his/her personal representative. The Covered Person should know that most disclosures of PHI will be for purposes of payment or health care operations, and, therefore, will not be subject to this right. There also are other exceptions to this right.

An accounting will include the date(s) of the disclosure, to whom the Plan made the disclosure, a brief description of the information disclosed and the purpose for the disclosure.

A Covered Person may request an accounting by submitting a request in writing to the individual or office referenced in the beginning of this Notice. It is important that the Covered Person direct the request for an accounting to this individual or office so that the Plan can begin to process the request. Requests sent to individuals or offices other than the one indicated might delay processing the request.

A Covered Person's request may be for disclosures made up to 6 years before the date of the request, but not for disclosures made before April 14, 2004. The first list requested within a 12-month period will be free. For additional lists, the Plan may charge for the costs of providing the list. The Plan will notify the Covered Person of the cost involved and he/she may choose to withdraw or modify the request before any costs are incurred.

• ***Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice***

The Covered Person has the right to a paper copy of this Notice, even if he/she has agreed to accept this Notice electronically.

COMPLAINTS

A Covered Person may complain to the Plan if he/she believes that the Plan has violated these privacy rights. The Covered Person may file a complaint with the Plan by contacting the individual or office referenced in the beginning of this Notice. A copy of a complaint form is available from this contact office.



A Covered Person also may file a complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Complaints filed directly with the Secretary must: (1) be in writing; (2) contain the name of the entity against which the complaint is lodged; (3) describe the relevant problems and (4) be filed within 180 days of the time the Covered Person became or should have become aware of the problem.

The Plan will not penalize or in any other way retaliate against a Covered Person for filing a complaint with the Secretary or with the Plan.



TO: All Employees Eligible for the ECC Group Health Plan
FROM: Employee Benefits Department
RE: **Annual Notice – HB5285 – Military Veterans**

SEMI-ANNUAL NOTICE REGARDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR DEPENDENTS

Illinois law requires your Health Plan to allow unmarried dependents the right to elect or continue coverage until the dependent reaches the age of 26 (and until the age of 30 for military veteran dependents).

Enrollment Period: Aside from your initial eligibility to participate in your Plan, you may make a written election for coverage of any unmarried dependent not currently covered under the Plan during the Plan's next annual open enrollment period for dependent coverage, or if the Plan has no open enrollment period, enrollment during the 30 day period prior to the Plan's annual renewal date. The effective date of coverage for each newly enrolled dependent will be governed by the terms of your Plan's summary plan description.

Military Veterans: In connection with military veteran dependents, such dependents must 1) reside in Illinois, 2) not be married, 3) have served in the active or reserve components of the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard, 4) have received a release or discharge other than a dishonorable discharge, and 5) have submitted a proof of service using a DD2-14 (Member 4 or 6) form, otherwise known as a "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty." This form is issued by the federal government to all veterans. For more information as to how to obtain a copy of the DD2-14, the veteran can call the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs at 1-800-437-9824 or the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs at 1-800-827-1000.

Cost: You may be required to pay all or part of the cost of this extended dependent coverage, which may be taxable. For additional information, please consult with the Employee Benefits Department.

Bright Choice. Bright Future.



TO: All Participants or Beneficiaries Enrolled in one of ECC's Group Health Plans
FROM: Employee Benefits Department
RE: **Annual Notice – WHCRA – Women's Health & Cancer Rights Act of 1998**

This notice serves as the annual notification requirement of the ***Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998***. This law requires group health plans that provide coverage for mastectomies to also cover reconstructive surgery and prostheses following mastectomies.

As this **Act** requires, we have sent you this letter to inform you about the law's provisions. The law mandates that a member receiving benefits for a medically necessary mastectomy who elects breast reconstruction after the mastectomy, will also receive coverage for:

- reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy has been performed
- surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance
- prostheses
- treatment of physical complications of all stages of mastectomy, including lymphedemas

This coverage will be provided in consultation with the attending physician and the patient, and will be subject to the same annual deductibles and coinsurance provisions that apply for the mastectomy.

If you have any questions about this law or the coverage of mastectomies and reconstructive surgery, please contact the customer service department of our insurance carrier / claim administrator at the telephone number shown on your Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois ID card.



TO: All Employees Eligible for the ECC Group Health Plan

FROM: Employee Benefits Department

RE: **Annual Notice - Extension of Dependent Coverage to Age 26**

This notice is being provided to you by Elgin Community College (ECC) as required by law to meet requirements under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

Individuals whose coverage ended, or who were denied coverage (or were not eligible for coverage), because the availability of dependent coverage of children ended before attainment of age 26 are eligible to enroll in the Elgin Community College Group Health Care Plan. Individuals may request enrollment for such children for 30 days from the date of notice. Enrollment will be effective retroactively to July 1, 2011. For more information contact ECC's Employee Benefits Department at 847/214-7125 or 847/214-7988.



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Illinois**

Important Notices

I. Initial Notice About Special Enrollment Rights in Your Group Health Plan

A federal law called Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires that we notify you about very important provisions in the plan. You have the right to enroll in the plan under its “special enrollment provision” without being considered a late enrollee 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. Section I of this notice may not apply to certain self-insured, non-federal governmental plans. Contact your employer or plan administrator for more information.

A. SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PROVISIONS

Loss of Other Coverage (Excluding Medicaid or a State Children’s Health Insurance Program) If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your eligible 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 you move out of an HMO service area, or the employer stops contributing toward your or your dependents’ other coverage). However, you must request enrollment within 31 days after your or your dependents’ other coverage ends (or move out of the prior plan’s HMO service area, or after the employer stops contributing toward the other coverage).

Loss of Coverage For 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 dependents in this plan. However, you must request enrollment within 31 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

Eligibility for State Premium Assistance for Enrollees of 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.

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, call Customer Service at the phone number on the back of your Blue Cross and Blue Shield ID card.

II. Additional Notices

Other federal laws require we notify you of additional provisions of your plan.

NOTICES OF RIGHT TO DESIGNATE A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER (FOR NON-GRANDFATHERED HEALTH PLANS ONLY)

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

If the plan generally requires or allows 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, call Customer Service at the phone number on the back of your Blue Cross and Blue Shield ID card.

For plans 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 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 the plan or from any other person (including a primary care provider) in order to obtain access to obstetrical or gynecological care from a health care professional in 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 pediatrics, obstetrics or gynecology, call Customer Service at the phone number on the back of your Blue Cross and Blue Shield ID card.