2023 Annual Notices

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BENECON

Introduction

This brochure includes the annual notices that should be distributed to all covered employees and dependents. This newsletter contains important information so we encourage you to read all sections.

If you have questions regarding any items contained in this newsletter, please contact your Human Resources office or plan administrator for more information.

We hope you find this information helpful and informative.

Summary of Benefits and Coverage

The Health Care Reform law states that all groups must implement the requirement that health plans and health insurers provide consumers with a Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC). The stated purpose of the SBC is to "accurately describe the benefits and coverage under the applicable plan or coverage," which will allow participants to better compare plan terms and benefits.

In addition, all group health plans will have to distribute a brief standard summary of benefits and must use and distribute a uniform glossary containing definitions for common terms (e.g. "copay", "deductible", etc.).

This should be distributed annually, no later than December 1st and within seven days per any employee request. The medical SBC will be created by the insurance carrier and provided to each group for distribution.

In addition, if your group has a stand-alone HRA or FSA that covers expenses beyond excepted benefits, then the plan sponsor, not the insurance carrier, will create and distribute that SBC.

Special Enrollment Rights Notice

If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance coverage, you may in the future be able to enroll yourself or your dependents in this plan, provided that you request enrollment within 30 days after your coverage ends. In addition, if you have a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents, provided that you request enrollment within 30 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

WHCRA Enrollment Notice

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

- all stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy was performed;
- surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance;
- prostheses and treatment of physical complications of the mastectomy, including lymphedema.

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

If you would like more information on WHCRA benefits, call your Plan Administrator at the phone number on the back of your carrier ID card.

Patient Protections Disclosure Notice

You do not need prior authorization from the carrier 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 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 insurance carrier by calling the number on the back of your ID card.

FOR GROUPS WITH HMO PLANS:
The employer's group health 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 the network and who is available to accept you or your family members. For children, you may designate a pediatrician as the primary care provider. For information on how to select a primary care provider, and for a list of the participating primary care providers, contact your insurance carrier by calling the number on the back of your ID card.

Notice of Availability of Notice of Privacy Practices

Your group health plan (the Plan) is required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and its regulations to maintain the privacy of your protected health information (PHI) and to provide plan participants with notice of its legal duties and privacy practices with respect to PHI. PHI is any individually identifiable information that is received or maintained by the Plan in electronic, written, or oral form that pertains to your past, present or future mental or physical condition, the provision of health care services for that condition, and the payment for those services.
The Plan is required by law to tell you:
The Plan's uses and disclosures of your PHI;
The Plan's duties with respect to your PHI;
Your right to file a complaint with the Plan and with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and
The person to contact for further information about the Plan's privacy practices.

A copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices is available to all individuals whose PHI will be used or maintained by the Plan. If you would like a copy of the Plan's Notice of Privacy Practices, please contact your Human Resources office or plan administrator.

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 https://pennie.com(in Pennsylvania) or 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-KIDSNOW** 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 January 31, 2022. Contact your state for more information on eligibility -

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NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP

Medicaid Website:

http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/

Medicaid Phone: 609-631-2392

CHIP Website:

http://www.njfamilycare.org/index.html

CHIP Phone: 1-800-701-0710

NEW YORK – Medicaid

Website:

https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/

Phone: 1-800-541-2831

PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid

Website:

http://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/HIPP-Program.aspx

Phone: 1-800-692-7462

To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since January 31, 2022 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

OMB Control Number 1210-0137 (expires 01/31/2023)

Your Rights and Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills

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

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

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

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

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

You are protected from balance billing for:

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

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

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

You're never required to give up your protections from balance billing. You also aren't required to get care out-of-network. You can choose a provider or facility in your plan's network. Contact the Pennsylvania Insurance Department at www.insurance.pa.gov/nosurprises or by phone at 1-877-881-6388 or TTY/TDD: 717-783-3898 if you have difficulty finding a provider or facility in your plan's network.

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

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

If you believe you've been wrongly billed, you may contact the Pennsylvania Insurance Department at **www.insurance.pa.gov/nosurprises** or by phone at **1-877-881-6388 or TTY/TDD: 717-783-3898.**

Visit **www.insurance.pa.gov/nosurprises** for more information about your rights under federal and state law. You may also visit https://www.cms.gov/nosurprises for information from the federal government.

Notice of Dependent Enrollment Limitations

Newborns: Must be enrolled within **30 days** of birth. If they are not enrolled within this time frame, they are not eligible until the next open enrollment period. If no open enrollment period exists, they are not eligible until a Life Status Event occurs (which may not occur in many instances).

Adoption/Judgments/Decrees/Etc.: Must be enrolled as of effective date listed on legal documentation. Refer to Plan Document on day limitation (i.e.

Newborns' Act Disclosure

Group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group health insurance coverage generally may not 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 delivery by cesarean section.

However, the plan or issuer may pay for a shorter stay if the attending provider (e.g., physician, nurse midwife, or physician assistant), after consultation with the mother, discharges the mother or newborn earlier.

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