



Cedar City

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 Natasha Hirschi at hnatasha@cedarcity.org or 435-865-2880.

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.

Our Pledge Regarding Health Information

- We understand that health information about you and your health is personal.
- We are committed to protecting health information about you.
- This notice will tell you the ways in which we may use and disclose health information about you.
- We also describe your rights and certain obligations we have regarding the use and disclosure of health information.

We are Required by Law to

- Make sure that health information that identifies you is kept private;
- Give you this notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to health information about you;
- Follow the terms of the notice that are currently in effect.

The Plan Will Use Your Health Information for

Treatment: The plan may use your health information to assist your health care providers (doctors, pharmacies, hospitals and others) to assist in your treatment. For example, the plan may provide a treating physician with the name of another treating provider to obtain records or information needed for your treatment.

Regular Operations: We may use information in health records to review our claims experience and to make determinations with respect to the benefit options that we offer to employees.

Business Associates: There are some services provided in our organization through contracts with business associates. Business associate agreements are maintained with insurance carriers. Business associates with access to your information must adhere to a contract requiring compliance with HIPAA privacy and security rules.

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

Workers' Compensation: We may release health information about you for Workers' Compensation or

similar programs. These programs provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.

Law Enforcement: We may disclose your health information for law enforcement purposes, or in response to a valid subpoena or other judicial or administrative request.

Public Health: We may also use and disclose your health information to assist with public health activities (for example, reporting to a federal agency) or health oversight activities (for example, in a government investigation).

Your Rights Regarding Your Health Information

Although your health record is the physical property of the entity that compiled it, the information belongs to you. You have the right to:

- Request a restriction on certain uses and disclosures of your information, where concerning a service already paid for;
- Obtain a paper copy of the Notice of Health Information Practices by requesting it from the plan privacy officer;
- Inspect and obtain a copy of your health information;
- Request an amendment to your health information;
- Obtain an accounting of disclosures of your health information;
- Request communications of your health information be sent in a different way or to a different place than usual (for example, you could request that the envelope be marked "Confidential" or that we send it to your work address rather than your home address);
- Revoke in writing your authorization to use or disclose health information except to the extent that action has already been taken, in reliance on that authorization.

The Plan's Responsibilities

The plan is required to:

- Maintain the privacy of your health information;
- Provide you with a notice as to our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to information we collect and maintain about you;
- Abide by the terms of this notice;
- Notify you if we are unable to agree to a requested restriction, amendment or other request;
- Notify you of any breaches of your personal health information within 60 days or 5 days if conducting business in California;
- Accommodate any reasonable request you may have to communicate health information by alternative means or at alternative locations.

The plan will not use or disclose your health information without your consent or authorization, except as provided by law or described in this notice. The plan reserves the right to change our health privacy practices. Should we change our privacy practices in a material way, we will make a new version of our notice available to you.

For More Information or to Report a Problem

- 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.

Other Uses of Health Information

Other uses and disclosures of health information not covered by this notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written authorization. If you authorize us to use or disclose health information about you, you may revoke that authorization, in writing, at any time. If you revoke your authorization we will no longer use or disclose health information about you for the reasons covered by your written authorization. You understand that we are unable to take back any disclosures we have already made with your authorization, and that we are required to retain our records of the payment activities that we provided to you.

Important Information on How Health Care Reform Impacts Your Plan

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](https://www.healthcare.gov) for more information, including an online application for health insurance coverage and contact information for a Health Insurance Marketplace in your area.

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.