

Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA

Introduction

You're getting this notice because you are covered under a group health plan (the Plan). This notice has important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. This notice explains COBRA continuation coverage, when it may become available to you and your family, and what you need to do to protect your right to get it. When you become eligible for COBRA, you may also become eligible for other coverage options that may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage. (Both you and, if you are married and your spouse is covered by the plan, your spouse should take the time to carefully read this notice.)

The right to COBRA continuation coverage was created by a federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). COBRA continuation coverage can become available to you and other members of your family when group health coverage would otherwise end. For more information about your rights and obligations under the Plan and under federal law, you should review the Plan's Summary Plan Description or contact the Plan Administrator.

You may have other options available to you when you lose group health coverage. For example, you may be eligible to buy an individual plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace. By enrolling in coverage through the Marketplace, you may qualify for lower costs on your monthly premiums and lower out-of-pocket costs. Additionally, you may qualify for a 30-day special enrollment period for another group health plan for which you are eligible (such as a spouse's plan), even if that plan generally doesn't accept late enrollees.

What is COBRA continuation coverage?

COBRA continuation coverage is a continuation of Plan coverage when it would otherwise end because of a life event known as a "qualifying event." Specific qualifying events are listed later in this notice. After a qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage must be offered to each person who is a "qualified beneficiary." You, your spouse, and your dependent children could become qualified beneficiaries if coverage under the Plan is lost because of the qualifying event. Under the Plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation coverage must pay for COBRA continuation coverage.

If you're an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- Your hours of employment are reduced, or
- Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

If you're the spouse of an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- Your spouse dies;
- Your spouse's hours of employment are reduced;
- Your spouse's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;

- Your spouse becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); or
- You become divorced or legally separated from your spouse.

Your dependent children will become qualified beneficiaries if they lose coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- The parent-employee dies;
- The parent-employee's hours of employment are reduced;
- The parent-employee's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- The parent-employee becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (Part A, Part B, or both);
- The parents become divorced or legally separated; or
- The child stops being eligible for coverage under the plan as a "dependent child."

Sometimes, filing a proceeding in bankruptcy under title 11 of the United States Code can be a qualifying event. If a proceeding in bankruptcy is filed with respect to the Employer, and that bankruptcy results in the loss of coverage of any retired employee covered under the Plan, the retired employee will become a qualified beneficiary. The retired employee's spouse, surviving spouse, and dependent children will also become qualified beneficiaries if bankruptcy results in the loss of their coverage under the Plan.

When is COBRA continuation coverage available?

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to qualified beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator has been notified that a qualifying event has occurred. The employer must notify the Plan Administrator of the following qualifying events:

- The end of employment or reduction of hours of employment;
- Death of the employee;
- Commencement of a proceeding in bankruptcy with respect to the employer; or
- The employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both)

You must give notice of some qualifying events

For the other qualifying events (divorce of the employee and spouse or a dependent child's losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child (other than due to the attainment of a certain age)), you must notify the Plan Administrator (using a Plan provided form) within 60 days after the later of (1) the date the qualifying event occurs or (2) the date coverage would end because of the qualifying event. You must send notification to the Plan, along with any required documentation via mail, email or fax as provided below:

To: Catholic Health Services of Long Island d/b/a Catholic Health

c/o Human Resources Service Center: MyHR

By Mail: 3 Huntington Quadrangle, Suite 301S, Melville, NY 11747

By Email: MyHR@chsli.org or online on the Benefit Portal

By Fax: 516-705-2828

Please submit your election changes online on the Benefit Portal (www.mychbenefits.org), and submit documentation of the event that occurred, such as a photocopy of a divorce order showing the date of the divorce. If you have any question about what type of documentation is required, you should contact the Plan Administrator at the address provided above or by calling (516) 705-6947.

Note: If your dependent loses coverage under the Plan due to the attainment of a certain age, there is no need to notify the Plan Administrator. The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage automatically to your dependent if he or she has become ineligible due to attainment of a certain age.

How is COBRA continuation coverage provided?

Once the Plan Administrator receives notice that a qualifying event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. Each qualified beneficiary will have an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. Covered employees may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their spouses, and parents may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their children.

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage. (NOTE: The rest of this paragraph applies to health plans other than the health care flexible spending account plan. For the rules that apply to the health care flexible spending account, see the "Special Rules for Health Care Flexible Spending Accounts" section below.) COBRA coverage generally lasts for 18 months if the qualifying event is employment termination or reduction of hours of work. Certain qualifying events, or a second qualifying event during the initial period of coverage, may permit a beneficiary to receive a maximum of 36 months of coverage. There are two ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended.

Disability extension of 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by the Social Security Administration to be disabled and you notify the Plan Administrator in a timely fashion, you and your entire family may be entitled to get up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a total maximum of 29 months. The disability would have to have started at some time before the 60th day of COBRA continuation coverage and must last at least until the end of the 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage. To notify the Plan Administrator of a disability determination, you should follow the same procedures described above under "You Must Give Notice of Some Qualifying Events". Your notice must include documentation of the Social Security Administration's decision and it must be provided within 60 days after the date of that decision, or, if later, within 60 days after the later of (1) the date the original qualifying event occurred or (2) the date that coverage would otherwise end (if COBRA coverage is not elected) because of the original qualifying event. However, regardless of the deadline described in the previous sentence, your notice must be provided no later than the date your COBRA coverage would terminate without a disability extension.

Second qualifying event extension of 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage

If your family experiences another qualifying event during the 18 months of COBRA continuation coverage, the spouse and dependent children in your family can get up to 18 additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 36 months, if the Plan is properly notified about the second qualifying event (following the same procedures described above under "You Must Give Notice of Some Qualifying Events"). This extension may be available to the spouse and any dependent children getting COBRA continuation coverage if the employee or former employee dies, becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both), or gets divorced or legally separated, or if the dependent child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child, but this extension is available only if the second qualifying event would have caused the spouse or dependent child to lose coverage under the Plan had the first qualifying event not occurred.

Special rules for health care flexible spending accounts

For a health care flexible spending account (Health FSA), COBRA continuation coverage is available only if the amount that a qualified beneficiary would be required to pay for the coverage for the remainder of the Plan Year is less than the amount of reimbursements that would be available to the qualified beneficiary if he or she elected COBRA coverage. Also, even if COBRA continuation coverage is available, it is available only for the remainder of the Plan Year in which the qualifying event occurs. COBRA coverage under the Health FSA cannot be extended beyond that time for any reason.

EXAMPLE: Assume that an employee elected to contribute a total of \$1,200 to her Health FSA account for a Plan Year and then her employment terminates six months after the beginning of the Plan Year. By that time, she has contributed \$600 to her FSA account through payroll deductions. Assume

that she has already received \$800 in reimbursements from her account for expenses incurred before her employment terminated. In that case, the maximum benefit she could receive from her account for any eligible expenses she incurs for the rest of the Plan Year is \$400. However, if she were permitted to continue to participate in the FSA for the rest of the Plan Year, she would be required to pay a total of \$600 (plus about \$12 in additional premiums allowed under COBRA) to continue that coverage. In that case, the amount she would be required to pay (about \$612) is more than the maximum that she would be eligible to receive in reimbursements (\$400), so she would not be offered COBRA continuation coverage under the FSA. On the other hand, if she had incurred expenses of \$588 or less before her termination date, she would be offered the opportunity to elect COBRA continuation coverage under the FSA for the remainder of the Plan Year because her maximum benefit under the Plan for the rest of the Plan Year would be more than the amount she would be required to pay (\$612).

Any deadlines or other rules for filing a request for reimbursement under the Health FSA will continue to apply if you elect continuation coverage under the Health FSA. Review the Health FSA details in this Summary for more information.

Additional continuation coverage rights for employees on military leave

If you take a leave of absence from employment with the Employer because of military service and your coverage (for you and your covered spouse or dependents) would otherwise terminate, you may elect to continue coverage under the Plan to the extent required by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA). You will be required to pay for such coverage in an amount determined under USERRA. (If your leave is for a period of 30 days or less, you will be required to pay only the amount that active employees pay for similar coverage.) This continuation coverage is basically identical to the continuation coverage described in this COBRA notice and it may end for any of the reasons that COBRA continuation coverage would end, except that the maximum coverage period is different. Specifically, note that USERRA continuation coverage will end no later than the first of the following days: (1) the last day of the 24-month period beginning on the date your military leave of absence begins; or (2) the day after the date on which you fail to apply for or return to a position of employment with the Employer.

Are there other coverage options besides COBRA continuation coverage?

Yes. Instead of enrolling in COBRA continuation coverage, there may be other coverage options for you and your family through the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicare, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or other group health plan coverage options (such as a spouse's plan) through what is called a "special enrollment period." Some of these options may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage. You can learn more about many of these options at www.healthcare.gov.

Can I enroll in Medicare instead of COBRA continuation coverage after my group health plan coverage ends?

In general, if you don't enroll in Medicare Part A or B when you are first eligible because you are still employed, after the Medicare initial enrollment period, you have an 8-month special enrollment period to sign up for Medicare Part A or B, beginning on the earlier of

- The month after your employment ends; or
- The month after group health plan coverage based on current employment ends.

If you don't enroll in Medicare and elect COBRA continuation coverage instead, you may have to pay a Part B late enrollment penalty and you may have a gap in coverage if you decide you want Part B later. If you elect COBRA continuation coverage and later enroll in Medicare Part A or B before the COBRA continuation coverage ends, the Plan may terminate your continuation coverage. However, if Medicare Part A or B is effective on or before the date of the COBRA election, COBRA coverage may not be discontinued on account of Medicare entitlement, even if you enroll in the other part of Medicare after the date of the election of COBRA coverage.

If you are enrolled in both COBRA continuation coverage and Medicare, Medicare will generally pay first (primary payer) and COBRA continuation coverage will pay second. Certain plans may pay as if secondary to Medicare, even if you are not enrolled in Medicare.

For more information visit <https://www.medicare.gov/medicare-and-you>

If you have questions

Questions concerning your Plan or your COBRA continuation coverage rights should be addressed to the contact or contacts identified below. For more information about your rights under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), including COBRA, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) in your area or visit www.dol.gov/ebsa. (Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website.) For more information about the Marketplace, visit www.HealthCare.gov.

Keep Your Plan Informed of Address Changes

To protect your family's rights, let the Plan Administrator know about any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator.

Plan Contact Information

For additional information about COBRA continuation rights or to report any address changes, please contact the Plan Administrator at the address or phone number provided above.