

2020 Important Notices

The following Notices are intended for benefits-eligible members enrolled in a PEBC health plan for the 2020 Plan year. If you are not eligible for or enrolled in a PEBC Plan, the Notices will not apply to you.



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Uniform Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC)

The uniform Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC) provision of the Affordable Care Act requires all insurers and group health plans to provide consumers with an SBC to describe key plan features, including limitations and exclusions, in a mandated format. The provision also requires that consumers have access to a uniform glossary of terms commonly used in health care coverage. The PEBC SBCs are available online at pebcinfo.com. You can view the glossary at healthcare.gov/SBC-glossary. To request a copy of these documents free of charge, call the SBC Hotline at 1-855-756-4448.

Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2008

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) prohibits group health plans and health insurance issuers from discriminating based on genetic information. In compliance with GINA, the PEBC Health Plans do not discriminate in individual eligibility, benefits, or premiums based on any health factor (including genetic information). The PEBC Health Plans are prohibited from using or disclosing genetic information for underwriting purposes, and will not use or disclose any of your Protected Health Information which contains genetic information for underwriting purposes.

Medical Plan Opt Out of Certain Provisions of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act

Group health plans sponsored by state and local government employers must generally comply with federal law requirements in Title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act. However, these employers are permitted to elect to exempt a plan from the requirements listed below for any part of the plan that is "self-funded" by the employer, rather than provided through a health insurance policy. Each of the employer groups participating in the Public Employee Benefits Cooperative of North Texas (PEBC) has elected to exempt the PPO Plan and the High Deductible Plan (HDP) from such requirements.

1 Standards related to benefits for mothers and newborns

Protection against limiting stays in connection with the birth of a child to less than 48 hours for a vaginal delivery and 96 hours for a cesarean section. (Newborn and Mother's Health Protection Act)

2 Parity in the application of certain limits to mental health benefits

Protection against having benefits for mental health and substance abuse disorders be subject to more restrictions than apply to medical and surgical benefits covered by the plan.

3 Required coverage for reconstructive surgery following mastectomies

Certain requirements to provide benefits for breast reconstruction after a mastectomy. (Women's Health & Cancer Rights Act [WHCRA])

4 Coverage of dependent students on medically necessary leave of absence

Continued coverage for up to 1 year for a dependent child who is covered as a dependent under the plan solely based on student status, who takes a medically necessary leave of absence from a postsecondary educational institution. (Michelle's Law)

The exemption from these federal requirements will be in effect for the 2020 plan year, beginning Jan. 1, 2020, and ending Dec. 31, 2020. The exemption may be renewed for subsequent plan years. Please note that PEBC employer groups currently voluntarily provide coverage that substantially complies with the requirements of the Newborn and Mother's Protection Act and the WHCRA.

Medicare Part D Notice of Creditable Coverage

Important notice from your employer 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 offered through your Employer's group benefit plans and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether or not you want to keep only your Employer's group coverage, join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or join a Medicare Advantage Plan. At the end of this notice is information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage.

You are receiving this notice because you may be enrolled in a health insurance plan offered by your Employer through your Employer's participation in the Public Employee Benefits Cooperative (PEBC). This notice applies to the self-funded PPO Plan and the self-funded High Deductible Plan (HDP), collectively referred to as "the PEBC Plan(s)."

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 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.

1 The prescription drug coverage provided by the PEBC Plans has been examined by consulting actuaries and is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage.

Because your existing PEBC Plan coverage is, on average, at least as good as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage, you can keep your PEBC Plan coverage and not pay extra if you later decide to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage.

Individuals can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan when they first become eligible for Medicare and each year from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7. This may mean that you may have to wait to join a Medicare drug plan and that you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug

coverage. However, if you lose creditable prescription drug coverage through no fault of your own, you will be eligible for a sixty (60) day Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Part D plan because you lost creditable coverage. In addition, if you lose or decide to leave your employer's sponsored coverage, you will be eligible to join a Part D plan at that time using an Employer Group Special Enrollment Period. 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.

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your PEBC Plan coverage will not be affected. However, if you drop your PEBC Plan coverage, you and your dependents may not be able to get your PEBC Plan coverage back. If you are retired and join a Medicare drug plan, that coverage is primary and your PEBC Plan coverage is secondary.

You should also know that if you drop or lose your PEBC Plan coverage, and you 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 prescription drug coverage that's at least as good as Medicare's prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go 19 months without creditable coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the 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 enroll.

You'll get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if PEBC Plan prescription drug coverage changes. You also may request a copy from your Employer.

More information about your options under Medicare prescription drug coverage

More 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 [medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov).
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program for personalized help. In Texas, that number is 1-800-252-9240.
- Refer to your copy of the "Medicare & You" handbook for additional State Health Insurance Program telephone numbers.
- 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 [socialsecurity.gov](https://www.socialsecurity.gov), or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

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 whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).

PEBC Health Plans Notice

Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) offer free or low-cost health coverage to children and families

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 [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov).

If you or your dependents are already enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP and you live in a State listed below, you can 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, you can contact your state Medicaid or CHIP office or dial 1-877-KIDS NOW or visit 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's plan, your employer must allow you to enroll in your employer's 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 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
Website: http://myalhipp.com/ Phone: 1-855-692-5447
ALASKA – Medicaid
The AK Health Insurance Premium Payment Program Website: http://myakhipp.com/ Phone: 1-866-251-4861 Email: CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com Medicaid Eligibility: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/medicaid/default.aspx
ARKANSAS – Medicaid
Website: http://myarhipp.com/ Phone: 1-855-MyARHIPP (1-855-692-7447)
COLORADO – Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) & Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+)
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
FLORIDA – Medicaid
Website: http://flmedicaidprecovery.com/hipp/ Phone: 1-877-357-3268

GEORGIA – Medicaid
Website: https://medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp Phone: 1-678-564-1162 ext 2131
INDIANA – Medicaid
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
IOWA – Medicaid
Website: http://dhs.iowa.gov/Hawki Phone: 1-800-257-8563
KANSAS – Medicaid
Website: http://www.kdheks.gov/hcf/ Phone: 1-785-296-3512
KENTUCKY – Medicaid
Website: https://chfs.ky.gov Phone: 1-800-635-2570
LOUISIANA – Medicaid
Website: http://dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/subhome/1/n/331 Phone: 1-888-695-2447
MAINE – Medicaid
Website: http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/public-assistance/index.html Phone: 1-800-442-6003 TTY: Maine relay 711
MASSACHUSETTS – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/masshealth/ Phone: 1-800-862-4840
MINNESOTA – Medicaid
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
MISSOURI – Medicaid
Website: http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm Phone: 1-573-751-2005
MONTANA – Medicaid
Website: http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP Phone: 1-800-694-3084

NEBRASKA – Medicaid
Website: http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov Phone: 1-855-632-7633 Lincoln: 1-402-473-7000 Omaha: 1-402-595-1178
NEVADA – Medicaid
Medicaid Website: http://dhcfnv.gov Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900
NEW HAMPSHIRE – Medicaid
Website: https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oii/hipp.htm Phone: 1-603-271-5218 Toll free number for the HIPP program: 1-800-852-3345, ext 5218
NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP
Medicaid Website: http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/ Medicaid Phone: 1-609-631-2392 CHIP Website: http://www.njfamilycare.org CHIP Phone: 1-800-701-0710
NEW YORK – Medicaid
Website: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/ Phone: 1-800-541-2831
NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid
Website: https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/ Phone: 1-919-855-4100
NORTH DAKOTA – Medicaid
Website: http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/medicalserv/medicaid/ Phone: 1-844-854-4825
OKLAHOMA – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: http://www.insureoklahoma.org Phone: 1-888-365-3742
OREGON – Medicaid
Website: http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx http://www.oregonhealthcare.gov/index-es.html Phone: 1-800-699-9075
PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid
Website: http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/medicalassistance/healthinsurancepremiumpaymenthippprogram/index.htm Phone: 1-800-692-7462
RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid
Website: http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/ Phone: 1-855-697-4347
SOUTH CAROLINA – Medicaid
Website: https://www.scdhhs.gov Phone: 1-888-549-0820

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

To see if any more states have added a premium assistance program since July 31, 2019, or for more information on special enrollment rights, you can contact either:

U.S. Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration
dol.gov/agencies/ebsa
1-866-444-EBSA (3272)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
cms.hhs.gov
1-877-267-2323, Menu Option 4, Ext. 61565

PEBC PRIVACY NOTICE

Privacy of your information NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES PEBC Group Health Plans

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

Effective date of notice: Sept. 23, 2013.

The "Plan" as described below refers to all PEBC group health plans, including the High Deductible Medical Plan (HDP), EPO Medical Plan, PPO Medical Plan, PEBC Dental Plan, PEBC Vision Plan and Health Care Spending Accounts (both general and limited purpose) if offered by your Employer. "You" or "yours" refers to individual participants in the Plan. If you are covered by a PEBC dental HMO plan, you will receive a separate notice from that HMO.

Throughout this document are references to the "Plan" and its administration. With regard to health plans offered on a fully insured basis (e.g., dental HMO and vision), information received from the "Plan" will generally be coming from the insurer on behalf of the Plan. For self-funded plans, "Plan" administration includes your Employer's own internal administration of the Plan, as well as PEBC and other administration activities.

Use and disclosure of Protected Health Information

The Plan is required by federal law to protect the privacy of your individual health information (referred to in this Notice as "Protected Health Information"). The Plan is also required to provide you with this Notice regarding policies and procedures regarding your Protected Health Information, and to abide by the terms of this Notice, as it may be updated from time to time.

Under applicable law, the Plan is permitted to make certain types of uses and disclosures of your Protected Health Information, without your authorization, for treatment, payment and health care operations purposes.

For **treatment** purposes, routine use and disclosure may include providing, coordinating or managing health care and related services by one or more of your providers, such as when your primary care physician consults with a specialist regarding your condition.

For **payment** purposes, use and disclosure of your information may take place to determine responsibility

for coverage and benefits, such as when the Plan checks with other health plans to resolve a coordination of benefits issue. The Plan also may use your Protected Health Information for other payment-related purposes, such as to assist in making plan eligibility and coverage determinations, or for utilization review activities. Payment purposes may also include, but are not limited to, billing, claims management, subrogation, reviews for medical necessity, utilization review and pre-authorizations.

For health care **operations** purposes, use and disclosure may take place in a number of ways involving plan administration, including for quality assessment and improvement, vendor review, and underwriting activities. Your information could be used, for example, to assist in the evaluation of one or more vendors who support the Plan, or our vendors may contact you to provide reminders or information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services available under the Plan. Health care operations may also include, but are not limited to, disease management, case management, legal reviews, handling appeals and grievances, plan or claims audits, fraud and abuse compliance programs, and other general administrative activities.

The Plans covered by this Notice may share Protected Health Information with each other as necessary to carry out treatment, payment, or health care operations. For example, your requests for claim payment may automatically be sent from a PEBC Medical Plan to the Health Care Spending Account Plan, in order to simplify and accelerate claims payment.

The Plans may contract with individuals or entities known as Business Associates to perform various functions on the Plans' behalf or to provide certain types of services. In order to perform these functions or to provide these services, Business Associates will receive, create, maintain, use and/or disclose your Protected Health Information. For example, we may disclose your Protected Health Information to a Business Associate to administer claims or to provide support services, such as utilization management, pharmacy benefit management or subrogation, but only after the Business Associate enters into a Business Associate Agreement with us. The Business Associate Agreement obligates each Business Associate to protect the privacy of your information, and Business Associates are not allowed to use or disclose any information other than as specified in our contract for services.

The Plan may disclose your Protected Health Information to the Employer that sponsors this Plan and to the PEBC in connection with these activities. The Plan does not use or disclose your Protected Health

Information for employment-related actions, such as hiring or termination, or for any other purposes not authorized by the HIPAA privacy regulations. If you are covered under an insured health plan, such as a dental HMO, the insurer also may disclose Protected Health Information to the Employer that sponsors the Plan and to the PEBC in connection with payment, treatment or health care operations.

The Plan is prohibited from using or disclosing genetic information for underwriting purposes, and will not use or disclose any of your Protected Health Information which contains genetic information for underwriting purposes.

In addition, the Plan may use or disclose your Protected Health Information without your authorization under conditions specified in federal regulations, including:

- As required by law, provided the use or disclosure complies with and is limited to the relevant requirements of such law;
- For public health activities;
- To an appropriate government authority regarding victims of abuse, neglect or domestic violence;
- To a health oversight agency for oversight activities authorized by law;
- In connection with judicial and administrative proceedings;
- To a law enforcement official for law enforcement purposes;
- To a coroner or medical examiner;
- To cadaveric organ, eye or tissue donation programs;
- For research purposes, as long as certain privacy-related standards are satisfied;
- To avert a serious threat to health or safety;
- For specialized government functions (e.g., military and veterans activities, national security and intelligence, federal protective services, medical suitability determinations, correctional institutions and other law enforcement custodial situations); and
- For workers compensation or other similar programs established by law that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness without regard to fault.

In special situations, the Plan may disclose to one of your family members, to a relative, to a close personal friend or to any other person identified by you, Protected Health Information that is directly relevant to the person's involvement with your care or payment related to your care. In addition, the Plan may use or disclose the Protected Health Information

to notify a member of your family, your personal representative, another person responsible for your care, or certain disaster relief agencies of your location, general condition or death. If you are incapacitated, there is an emergency, or you otherwise do not have the opportunity to agree to or object to this use or disclosure, those involved in Plan administration will do what in our judgment is in your best interest regarding such disclosure and will disclose only the information that is directly relevant to the person's involvement with your health care.

Uses and disclosures for which an authorization is required

Your authorization is required for most uses and disclosures of psychotherapy notes, uses and disclosures of Protected Health Information for marketing purposes, and disclosures which constitute a sale of Protected Health Information. We will make any other uses and disclosures not described in this Notice only after you authorize them in writing. You may revoke your authorization in writing at any time, except to the extent that we have already taken action in reliance on the authorization.

Your rights regarding Protected Health Information

You have the right to:

- **Inspect and Copy your Protected Health Information:** Upon written request, you have the right to inspect and get copies of your Protected Health Information (and that of an individual for whom you are a legal guardian). There are some limited exceptions.
- **Request an Amendment:** You have the right to amend or correct inaccurate or incomplete Protected Health Information. Your request must be in writing and must include an explanation of why the information should be amended. Under certain circumstances, your request may be denied.
- **Receive An Accounting of Non-Routine Disclosures:** You have the right to receive a list of non-routine disclosures we have made of your Protected Health Information. However, you are not entitled to an accounting of several types of disclosures including, but not limited to:
 - Disclosures made for payment, treatment or health care operations;
 - Disclosures you authorized in writing; or
 - Disclosures made before April 14, 2003.
- **Request Restrictions:** You have the right to request that we place additional restrictions on our use or

disclosure of your Protected Health Information as we carry out payment, treatment or health care operations. You may also ask us to restrict how we use and disclose your Protected Health Information to your family members, relatives, friends or other persons you identify who are involved in your care or payment for your care. We do not have to agree to these additional restrictions, but if we do, we must abide by our agreement (except in emergencies).

- **Request Confidential Communications:** You may request to receive your Protected Health Information by alternative means or at an alternative location if you reasonably believe that other disclosure could pose a danger to you. For example, you may want to have Protected Health Information sent only by mail or to an address other than your home.
- **Receive Notice of a Breach:** You have the right to be notified upon a breach of your unsecured Protected Health Information, if a disclosure occurs that meets the definition and thresholds of a breach under the law.
- **Receive a Paper Copy of This Notice:** You have the right to a paper copy of this Notice, even if you have agreed to receive this notice electronically.

For more information about exercising these rights, contact the office at the end of this Notice.

About this notice

The Plan reserves the right to change the terms of this Notice and to make the new Notice provisions effective for all Protected Health Information maintained. If this Notice is changed, you will receive a new Notice by mail or by a Notice posted on the PEBC website, at pebcinfo.com.

If you believe that your privacy rights have been violated, or that the privacy or security of your unsecured Protected Health Information has been compromised, you may file a complaint. You may complain in writing at the location described below under "Contacting the Plan Administrator" or to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, Region VI, at 1301 Young Street, Suite 1169, Dallas, TX 75202. You will not be retaliated against for filing a complaint.

Contacting the plan administrator

You may exercise the rights described in this Notice by contacting the office identified below. They will provide you with additional information. The contact is:

PEBC
PO Box 5888
Arlington, TX 76005-5888
1-817-608-2317