

Important Information About Your Plans

Please review the following information regarding your plan benefits.

Important Plan Notices and Documents

Summary Plan Descriptions

A Summary Plan Description (SPD) is the legal document for describing benefits provided under the plan as well as plan rights and obligations to participants and beneficiaries.

Paper copies of these documents and notices are available upon request. If you would like a paper copy, please contact the Monica Leyva-Marquez at 805-922-4573 x 4206 or by emailing SMJUHSD-Benefits@smjuhsd.org.

Summary of Material Modifications

Please note that the details in this Benefit Guide may include changes to benefits for the upcoming plan year. As such, this Guide constitutes a Summary of Material Modification or “SMM” which amends any previous SPD that you have received. Please keep this Guide with your SPD, and refer to it when it is time to use your benefits.

Summary of Benefits and Coverage

A Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC) is a document required by the ACA that presents plan benefit features in a standardized format.

Medicare Part D Notice

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT ABOUT YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with Santa Maria Joint Union High School District 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 plan 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 offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.
2. Santa Maria Joint Union High School District has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by its medical plan options are, on average, for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and are 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 to 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 Santa Maria Joint Union High School District coverage will not be affected. See below for more information about what happens to your current coverage if you join a Medicare drug plan.

Since the existing prescription drug coverage under Santa Maria Joint Union High School District is creditable (e.g., as good as Medicare coverage), you can retain your existing prescription drug coverage and choose not to enroll in a Part D plan; or you can enroll in a Part D plan as a supplement to, or in lieu of, your existing prescription drug coverage.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Santa Maria Joint Union High School District prescription drug coverage, be aware that you and your dependents can only get this coverage back at open enrollment or if you experience an event that gives rise to a HIPAA Special Enrollment Right.

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 Santa Maria Joint Union High School District 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 19 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...

Contact the person listed below for further information. NOTE: 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 this coverage through Santa Maria Joint Union High School District changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

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 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 (penalty).

Date:	January 2023
Name of Entity/Sender:	Santa Maria Joint Union High School District
Contact-Position/Office:	Monica Leyva-Marquez
Address:	2560 Skyway Drive Santa Maria, CA 93455
Phone:	805-922-4573 x 4206

Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act

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 the Company's medical plans. If you would like more information on WHCRA, please contact Monica Leyva-Marquez.

Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection

Under federal law, group health plans and health insurers offering group health insurance generally may not restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or the newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, the plan or issuer may pay for a shorter stay if the attending physician (e.g., your physician, nurse, or midwife or physician assistant), after consultation with the mother, discharges the mother or newborn earlier.

Also under federal law, plans and insurers may not set the level of benefits or out-of-pocket costs so that any later portion of the 48-hour (or 96-hour) stay is treated in a manner less favorable to the mother or newborn than any earlier portion of the stay.

In addition, a plan or issuer may not, under federal law, require that a physician or other health care provider obtain authorization for prescribing a length of stay of up to 48 hours (or 96 hours). However, to use certain providers or facilities, or to reduce your out-of-pocket costs, you may be required to obtain precertification. For information on precertification, contact your plan administrator.

Notice of Right to Designate Primary Care Provider

If you enroll in the Anthem Traditional HMO/Blue Shield Access+ HMO/UHC Alliance HMO medical plan options, it is important for you to know your rights regarding certain types of care. Here is a summary of your rights:

1. The Plan generally requires the designation of a primary care provider (PCP). You have the right to designate a PCP who participates in the plan's network and who is available to accept you or your family members as patients. Until you make this designation, the Plan will designate a PCP for you. For your children, you may designate a pediatrician as their PCP. Please contact the Plan for information on how to select a PCP.
2. You do not need prior authorization from the Plan or any other person (including a PCP) in order to obtain access to obstetrical or gynecological care from an in-network health care professional 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. Please contact the Plan for a list of participating health care professionals who specialize in obstetrics or gynecology.

HIPAA Notice of Special Enrollment Rights

If you decline enrollment in the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District medical plan for you or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance or group health plan coverage, you or your dependents may be able to enroll in the medical plan without waiting for the next open enrollment period if you:

- Lose other health insurance or group health plan coverage. You must request enrollment within 30 days after the loss of the coverage.
- Gain a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption. You must request medical plan enrollment within 30 days after the event.
- Lose Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage because you are no longer eligible. You must request medical plan enrollment within 60 days after the loss of such coverage.

You must provide documentation of dependent status (for example, with a marriage license or birth certificate) at the time of the enrollment request. If your request to join the Plan is due to loss of other coverage, you must provide documentation of that loss of coverage as well.

If you request a change due to a special enrollment event within the 30 day timeframe, coverage will be effective on the date of birth/adoption/placement. For all other events, coverage will be effective the first of the month following your request for enrollment. In addition, you may enroll in the Company medical plan if you become eligible for a state premium assistance program under Medicaid or CHIP. You must request enrollment within 60 days after you gain eligibility for this assistance. If you request this change, coverage will be effective the first of the month following your request for enrollment. Specific restrictions may apply, depending on federal and state law.

Note: If your dependent becomes eligible for a special enrollment right, you may add the dependent to your current coverage.

HIPAA Privacy Notice

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. The privacy of your medical information is important to us.

For more information about our privacy practices, to discuss questions or concerns, or to get additional copies of this notice, please contact SMJUHSD-Benefits@smjuhsd.org or call 805-922-4573 x 4206.

This notice took effect January 1, 2023 and will remain in effect unless we replace it.

Uses and Disclosures of Your Medical Information

Payment: We may use and disclose your medical information, without your express permission, for health care operations, including:

- Conducting or arranging for medical reviews, audits and legal services, including fraud and abuse detection and prevention; and
- Business planning and general administration, including customer service, grievance resolution, and claims payment.

Your Authorization: You may give us written authorization to use your medical information or to disclose it to anyone for any purpose. If you give us authorization, you may revoke it at any time. Your revocation will not affect any use or disclosure permitted by your authorization while it was in effect.

Public Health and Benefit Activities: We may use and disclose your medical information, without your permission, when required by law.

Your Rights

Access: You have the right to examine and to receive a copy of your medical information, with limited exceptions. You should submit your request in writing to the Monica Leyva-Marquez at SMJUHSD-Benefits@smjuhsd.org. If your data is maintained electronically, you can request an electronic copy. We will provide your data in the electronic form and format you request if it is readily producible in such form and format.

You may request that we transmit your medical information directly to your designee. Such request must be in writing, signed by you, and must clearly identify the designated person to receive the information.

Disclosure Accounting: You have a right to a list of instances from the prior six years in which we disclosed your medical information for purposes other than treatment, payment, health care operations, as authorized by you, and for certain other activities. You should submit your request in writing.

Amendment: You have the right to request that we amend your medical information. You should submit your request in writing. If your request is denied, we will do so in writing.

Restriction: You have the right to request that we restrict our use or disclosure of your medical information. We are not required to agree with your request. You should submit your request in writing.

Confidential Communication: You have the right to request that we communicate with you about your medical information in confidence by means or locations that you specify. You should submit your request in writing. We will accommodate your request if it is reasonable.

Breach Notification: You have the right to receive notice of a breach of your unsecured medical information. Notification may be delayed or not provided if so required by a law enforcement official. You may request that notice be provided by electronic mail.

Electronic Notice: If you receive this notice on our web site or by email, you are entitled to receive a copy in written form. Please contact Monica Leyva-Marquez at SMJUHSD-Benefits@smjuhsd.org or 805-922-4573 x 4206 to request a written copy.

Complaints

If you are concerned that we may have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree with a decision we made about access to your medical information, about restricting our use or disclosure of your medical information, or about how we communicate with you about your medical information (including a breach notice), you may complain to the Privacy Official at:

Santa Maria Joint Union High School District
Attn: Privacy Official
2560 Skyway Drive
Santa Maria, CA 93455

You may also submit a written complaint to the Office for Civil Rights Enforcement of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, DC 20201. You may contact the Office for Civil Rights' Hotline at 1-800-368-1019.

We support your right to the privacy of your medical information. We will not retaliate in any way if you choose to file a complaint with us or with the Department of Health and Human Services.

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, 2022. 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:
<https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/default.aspx>

ARKANSAS – Medicaid

Website: <http://myarhipp.com/>
Phone: 1-855-MyARHIPP (855-692-7447)

CALIFORNIA – Medicaid

Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program <https://dhcs.ca.gov/HIPP>
Phone: 916-445-8233
Fax: 916-440-5676
Email: hipp@dhcs.ca.gov

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
Health Insurance Buy-In Program (HIBI): <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/health-insurance-buy-program>
HIBI Customer Service: 1-855-692-6442

FLORIDA – Medicaid

Website:
<https://www.flmedicaidtprecovery.com/flmedicaidtprecovery.com/hipp/index.html>
Phone: 1-877-357-3268

GEORGIA – Medicaid

GA HIPP Website: <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp>
Phone: 678-564-1162, Press 1
GA CHIPRA Website:
<https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/childrens-health-insurance-program-reauthorization-act-2009-chipra>
Phone: (678) 564-1162, Press 2

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: <https://www.in.gov/medicaid/>
Phone 1-800-457-4584

IOWA – Medicaid and CHIP (Hawki)

Medicaid Website:
<https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members>
Medicaid Phone: 1-800-338-8366
Hawki website:
<http://dhs.iowa.gov/Hawki>
Hawki Phone: 1-800-257-8563
HIPP Website:
<https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/medicaid-a-to-z/hipp>
HIPP Phone: 1-888-346-9562

KANSAS – Medicaid

Website: <http://www.kancare.ks.gov/>
Phone: 1-800-792-4884

KENTUCKY – Medicaid

Kentucky Integrated Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (KI-HIPP) Website:
<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.p.aspx>
Phone: 1-855-459-6328
Email: KIHIPPPROGRAM@ky.gov

KCHIP Website:

<https://kidshealth.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx>

Phone: 1-877-524-4718

Kentucky Medicaid Website: <https://chfs.ky.gov>

LOUISIANA – Medicaid

Website: www.medicaid.la.gov or

www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp

Phone: 1-888-342-6207 (Medicaid hotline) or 1-855-618-5488 (LaHIPP)

MAINE – Medicaid

Enrollment Website:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms>

Phone: 1-800-442-6003

TTY: Maine relay 711

Private Health Insurance Premium Webpage:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms>

Phone: -800-977-6740.

TTY: Maine relay 711

MASSACHUSETTS – Medicaid and CHIP

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/masshealth/pa>

Phone: 1-800-862-4840

TTY: (617) 886-8102

MINNESOTA – Medicaid

Website:

<https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/children-and-families/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: 573-751-2005

MONTANA – Medicaid

Website:

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP>

Phone: 1-800-694-3084

Email: HSSHIPPProgram@mt.gov

NEBRASKA – Medicaid

Website: <http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov>

Phone: 1-855-632-7633

Lincoln: 402-473-7000

Omaha: 402-595-1178

NEVADA – Medicaid

Medicaid Website: <http://dhcfp.nv.gov>

Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Medicaid

Website: [https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-](https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program)

[services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program](https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program)

Phone: 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: 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

NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid

Website: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/>

Phone: 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:

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/HIP-P-Program.aspx>

Phone: 1-800-692-7462

RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid

Website: <http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/>

Phone: 1-855-697-4347 or 401-462-0311 (Direct RlItc Share Line)

SOUTH CAROLINA – Medicaid

Website: <https://www.scdhhs.gov>

Phone: 1-888-549-0820

SOUTH DAKOTA – Medicaid

Website: <http://dss.sd.gov>

Phone: 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: 1-887-543-7669

VERMONT - Medicaid

Website: <http://greenmountaincare.org/>

Phone: 1-800-250-8427

VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP

Website: <https://www.coveredva.org/en/famis-select>

<http://www.coverva.org/en/hipp>

Medicaid Phone: 1-800-432-5924

CHIP Phone: 1-800-432-5924

WASHINGTON - Medicaid

Website: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/>

Phone: 1-800-562-3022

WEST VIRGINIA – Medicaid

Website: <https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/>

<https://mywvhipp.com/>

Medicaid Phone: 304-558-1700

CHIP Toll-free phone: 1-855-MyWVHIPP (1-855-699-8447)

WISCONSIN – Medicaid and CHIP

Website:

<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm>

Phone 1-800-362-3002

WYOMING - Medicaid

Website:

<https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/programs-and-eligibility>

Phone: 1-800-251-1269

To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since July 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

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.

Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA

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.

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. This is also called 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."

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; or
- The employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both).

For all other qualifying events (divorce or legal separation of the employee and spouse or a dependent child's losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), you must notify the Plan Administrator within 60 days after the qualifying event occurs. You must provide this notice to: *Santa Maria Joint Union High School District*

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 that generally lasts for 18 months due to 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 also 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 Social Security 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 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.

Second qualifying event extension of 18-month period of 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. 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); gets divorced or legally separated; or if the dependent child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child. This extension is only available 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.

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 period¹ 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.

¹ <https://www.medicare.gov/sign-up-change-plans/how-do-i-get-parts-a-b/part-a-part-b-sign-up-periods>.

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

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Monica Leyva-Marquez
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