



## Health Plan Compliance Notices

Benefit Plan Year 01/01/2025 –12/31/2025

**SHEEHY**  
A U T O S T O R E S

# Compliance Document Outline

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- ◆ Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA)
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# Important Notices

For your protection, federal law governs Employee Benefit plans. The following sections highlight several important legal issues. Please refer to the individual plan documents, certificates of insurance, and/or summary plan descriptions (SPDs) for specific information.

## HIPAA

### **Special HIPAA Enrollment Rights**

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) requires employers who sponsor group health and dental plans to provide employees and their dependents with a certificate indicating coverage dates of medical and dental insurance. This certificate will be issued to the plan participant automatically once insurance coverage ends, either voluntarily or involuntarily. Additionally, an employee or the employee's spouse or dependent may request a certificate within 24 months of losing coverage. Under HIPAA, employees are given the opportunity to enroll under the plan if they lose other coverage or gain new dependents. The enrollment right extends to the entire family unit.

If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance coverage, you may, in the future, be able to enroll yourself or your dependents in this plan, provided that you request enrollment within

31 days after your other coverage ends. In addition, if you have a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement of adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents, provided that you request enrollment within 31 days of the event.

If you have questions regarding this law, you may contact the Benefits Department. You may also contact the State Insurance Department or the Department of Labor, Washington DC, for further information.

### **HIPAA-Privacy Act Legislation**

Under HIPAA legislation, your employer and your health plan are obligated to protect confidential health information that identifies you or could be used to identify you and relates to a physical or mental health condition or the payment of your health care expenses.

HIPAA requires your employer and your health plan to notify you and your beneficiaries about their policies and practices that protect the confidentiality of your health information.

Refer to your plan's Privacy Notice in the Certificate of Coverage for a detailed description of:

- Your plan’s information privacy policy
- Ways the plan may use and disclose health information about you
- Your rights
- Obligations the plan has regarding the use and disclosure of your health information

## COBRA

This notice contains important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. This notice generally explains COBRA continuation coverage, when it may become available to you and your family, and what you need to do to protect the right to receive it.

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 when you would otherwise lose your group health coverage. It can also become available to other members of your family who are covered under the Plan when they would otherwise lose their group health coverage. This notice does not fully describe COBRA continuation coverage or other rights under the plan. For additional and more complete information about your rights and obligations under the Plan and under federal law, you should contact the Plan Administrator.

### **What is COBRA Continuation Coverage?**

COBRA continuation coverage is a continuation of Plan coverage when coverage 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 may be required to pay for COBRA continuation coverage.

### **Employee**

If you are an employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage if you lose your coverage under the Plan because either one of the following qualifying events happens:

- Your hours of employment are reduced, or



- Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

## Spouse

If you are the spouse of an employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage if you lose your coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happens:

- 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. In the event your spouse, who is the employee, reduces or terminates your coverage under the Plan in anticipation of a divorce or legal separation which later occurs, the divorce or legal separation may be considered a qualifying event even though the coverage was reduced or terminated before the divorce or separation.

## Dependent Children

Your dependent children, including any child born to or placed for adoption with a covered employee during the period of COBRA coverage who is thereafter properly enrolled in the Plan, or a child of the covered employee who is receiving benefits under the Plan pursuant to a qualified medical child support order, will become qualified beneficiaries entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage if they lose coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happens:

- 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."

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to qualified beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator has been notified that a qualifying event has occurred. When the qualifying event is 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), the employer must notify the Plan Administrator of the qualifying event.

## You Must Give Notice of some Qualifying Events

For the 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 in writing within 60 days after the qualifying event occurs. You must provide this notice to the Plan Administrator. The Plan procedures for this notice, including a description of any required information or documentation, can be obtained by contacting the Plan Administrator. If these procedures are not followed or if the notice is not provided in writing to the Plan Administrator during the 60-day notice period, you will lose your right to elect COBRA continuation coverage.

## How is COBRA Coverage Provided?

Once the Plan Administrator receives timely 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. If COBRA continuation coverage is not elected within the 60-day election period, a qualified beneficiary will lose the right to elect COBRA continuation coverage.

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage. When the qualifying event is the death of the employee, the employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both), your divorce or legal separation, or a dependent child's losing eligibility as a dependent child, COBRA continuation coverage may last for up to a total of 36 months. When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee's hours of employment, and the employee became entitled to Medicare benefits less than 18 months before the qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage for qualified beneficiaries other than the employee lasts until 36 months after the date of Medicare entitlement. For example, if a covered employee becomes entitled to Medicare 8 months before the date on which his employment terminates, COBRA continuation coverage for his spouse and children can last up to 36 months after the date of Medicare entitlement, which is equal to 28 months after the date of the qualifying event (36 months minus 8 months). Otherwise, when the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee's hours of employment, COBRA continuation coverage generally lasts for only up to a total of 18 months. There are two ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended.

## Disability Extension of 18-Month Period of 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 receive 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 continuation coverage. The Plan procedures for this notice, including a description of any required information or documentation, the name of the appropriate party to whom notice must be sent, and the time period for giving notice, can be found in the most recent Summary Plan Description or by contacting the Plan Administrator. If these procedures are not followed or if the notice is not provided in writing to the Plan Administrator during the 60-day notice period and within 18 months after the covered employee's termination of employment or reduction of hours, there will be no disability extension of COBRA continuation coverage. The affected individual must also notify the Plan Administrator within 30 days of any final determination that the individual is no longer disabled.

## Second Qualifying Event Extension of 18-Month Period of Continuation Coverage

If your family experiences another qualifying event while receiving 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 notice of the second qualifying event is properly given to the Plan. This extension may be available to the spouse and any dependent children receiving 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 only if the event would have caused the spouse or dependent child to lose coverage under the Plan had the first qualifying event not occurred. The Plan procedures for this notice, including a description of any required information or documentation, the name of the appropriate party to whom notice must be sent, and the time period for giving notice, can be found in the most recent Summary Plan Description or by contacting the Plan Administrator. If these procedures are not followed or if the notice is not provided in writing to the Plan Administrator during the 60-day notice period, there will be no extension of COBRA continuation coverage due to a second qualifying event.

## If You Have Questions

Questions concerning your Plan or your COBRA continuation coverage rights should be addressed to the Plan Administrator. For more information about your rights under ERISA, including COBRA, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), 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 the EBSA website at [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa). (Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website.)

## Keep Your Plan Informed of Address Changes

In order to protect your family's rights, you should keep the Plan Administrator informed of the current addresses and of 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.

## Social Security and Section 125

Under IRC § 125, you are allowed to pay for certain group insurance premiums with tax-free dollars. This means your premium deductions are taken out of your paycheck before federal income and Social Security taxes are calculated. You must make benefit elections carefully, including the choice to waive coverage. Your pretax elections will remain in effect until the next annual Open Enrollment period, unless you experience an IRS-approved qualifying event. A qualifying event, also known as a "Life event," is a change in your personal life that may impact you or your dependents' eligibility for benefits under your employer's Benefit Plans. Qualifying events include, but are not limited to:

- Marriage, divorce or legal separation;
- Death of spouse or other dependent;
- Birth or adoption of a child;
- A spouse's employment begins or ends;
- A dependent's eligibility status changes due to age, student status, marital status, or employment status; and You or your spouse experiences a change in work hours that affect benefit eligibility.

Please note that your qualified status change must be consistent with the event. You must notify Human Resources within 30 days of your qualifying event.

## Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998

The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 requires your health care plan to provide benefits for mastectomy-related services. This service includes surgery and reconstruction to achieve symmetry between the breasts; prostheses; and complications resulting from a mastectomy (including lymph edemas). Coverage for the mastectomy-related services or benefits required under the Women's Health law are subject to the same deductibles and coinsurance or co-payment provisions that apply to other medical or surgical benefits your group medical contract provides.

## Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act of 1996 (Newborn's Act)

Group health plans and health insurance issuers generally may not, under federal law, restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a normal vaginal delivery; or 96 hours following a cesarean section.

However, federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from dis-charging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the insurance issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

For up to a year following a child's birth, nursing employees will be provided break time to express breast milk during the workday. The employee will be allowed a reasonable break time whenever she has the need to express milk throughout the day .

## Mental Health Parity Act

On October 3, 2008, President Bush signed into law the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. Contained within this important but unrelated piece of emergency legislation is the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (the "Act"), which requires group health plans to apply the same treatment limits on mental health or substance-related disorder benefits as they do for medical and surgical benefits. The Act also extends this parity requirement to inpatient and outpatient services, whether in- network or out-of-network, and to emergency care services.

Notably, the Act revised the definition of “mental health benefits” to now include substance use disorder benefits. The Act also requires group health plans to apply the same beneficiary financial requirements to mental health or substance use disorder benefits as they apply for medical and surgical benefits, including limits on deductibles, co-payments and out-of-pocket expenses. For a copy of the new law, see: [www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-1424](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-1424)

## Autism Spectrum Disorder

This mandate requires Large Group health insurance plans to provide coverage for screening, diagnosis, intervention and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder in certain children. Children must be under 18 years of age, or still in high school, and have been diagnosed as having autism spectrum disorder developmental disability at 8 years of age or younger.

## Michelle’s Law

Federal Mandate applies to all health insurance products and health plans for the direct Individual, Small and Large Group markets. It applies to new members and groups and existing groups that renew on and after October 8, 2009. This mandate requires Group and Individual health plans to continue to cover dependent children between the ages of 19-25 who take a medical leave of absence from a postsecondary educational institution due to a serious illness or injury. The fully insured endorsements for Michelle’s Law will also include new utilization management program language that will be implemented beginning with renewals on or after 10/15/09.

## Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA)

Private Employers, State and Local Governments, Educational Institutions, Employment Agencies and Labor Organizations Applicants to and employees of most private employers, state and local governments, educational institutions, employment agencies and labor organizations are protected under Federal law from discrimination on the following bases: RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, protects applicants and employees from discrimination in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), or national origin. Religious discrimination includes failing to reasonably accommodate an employee’s religious practices where the accommodation does not impose undue hardship.



## DISABILITY

Title I and Title V of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, protect qualified individuals from discrimination on the basis of disability in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment. Disability discrimination includes not making reasonable accommodation to the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or employee, barring undue hardship.

## AGE

The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended, protects applicants and employees 40 years of age or older from discrimination based on age in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment.

## SEX (WAGES)

In addition to sex discrimination prohibited by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, as amended, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, as amended, prohibits sex discrimination in the payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work, in jobs that require equal skill, effort, and responsibility, under similar working conditions, in the same establishment.

## GENETICS

Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 protects applicants and employees from discrimination based on genetic information in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment. GINA also restricts employers' acquisition of genetic information and strictly limits disclosure of genetic information. Genetic information includes information about genetic tests of applicants, employees, or their family members; the manifestation of diseases or disorders in family members (family medical history); and requests for or receipt of genetic services by applicants, employees, or their family members.

## RETALIATION

All of these Federal laws prohibit covered entities from retaliating against a person who files a charge of discrimination, participates in a discrimination proceeding, or otherwise opposes an unlawful employment practice.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU BELIEVE DISCRIMINATION HAS OCCURRED

There are strict time limits for filing charges of employment discrimination. To preserve the ability of EEOC to act on your behalf and to protect your right to file a private lawsuit, should you ultimately need to, you should contact EEOC promptly when discrimination is suspected: The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), 1-800-669-4000 (toll-free) or 1-800-669-6820 (toll-free TTY number for individuals with hearing impairments). EEOC field office information is available at [www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov) or in most telephone directories in the U.S. Government or Federal Government section. Additional information about EEOC, including information about charge filing, is available at [www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov).

## Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) Continued

### **Employers Holding Federal Contracts or Subcontracts**

Applicants to and employees of companies with a Federal government contract or subcontract are protected under Federal law from discrimination on the following bases:

### **RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN**

Executive Order 11246, as amended, prohibits job discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin, and requires affirmative action to ensure equality of opportunity in all aspects of employment.

### **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, protects qualified individuals from discrimination on the basis of disability in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment. Disability discrimination includes not making reasonable accommodation to the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or employee, barring undue hardship. Section 503 also requires that Federal contractors take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities at all levels of employment, including the executive level.

### **DISABLED, RECENTLY SEPARATED, OTHER PROTECTED, AND ARMED FORCES SERVICE MEDAL VETERANS**

The Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, as amended, 38 U.S.C. 4212, prohibits job discrimination and requires affirmative action to employ and advance in

employment disabled veterans, recently separated veterans (within three years of discharge or release from active duty), other protected veterans (veterans who served during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized), and Armed Forces service medal veterans (veterans who, while on active duty, participated in a U.S. military operation for which an Armed Forces service medal was awarded).

## **RETALIATION**

Retaliation is prohibited against a person who files a complaint of discrimination, participates in an OFCCP proceeding, or otherwise opposes discrimination under these Federal laws.

Any person who believes a contractor has violated its nondiscrimination or affirmative action obligations under the authorities above should contact immediately:

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP), U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.,

Washington, D.C. 20210, 1-800-397-6251 (toll-free) or (202) 693-1337 (TTY). OFCCP may also be contacted by e-mail at [OFCCPPublic@dol.gov](mailto:OFCCPPublic@dol.gov), or by calling an OFCCP regional or district office, listed in most telephone directories under U.S. Government, Department of Labor.

Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance

## **RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX**

In addition to the protections of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance. Employment discrimination is covered by Title VI if the primary objective of the financial assistance is provision of employment, or where employment discrimination causes or may cause discrimination in providing services under such programs. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities which receive Federal financial assistance.

## **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity which receives Federal financial assistance. Discrimination is prohibited in all aspects of employment against persons with disabilities who, with or without reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of the job. If you believe you have been discriminated against in a program of any

institution which receives Federal financial assistance, you should immediately contact the Federal agency providing such assistance.

EEOC 9/02 and OFCCP 8/08 Versions Useable With 11/09 Supplement EEOC-P/E-1 (Revised 11/09).

## **The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009**

Employees and dependents who are eligible for health care coverage under your employer's Insurance, but are not enrolled, will be permitted to enroll in the plan if they lose eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP coverage or become eligible for a Premium assistance subsidy under Medicaid or CHIP. Individuals must request coverage under the plan within 60 days of the loss of Medicaid or CHIP coverage or the determination of eligibility for a premium assistance subsidy. CHIPRA allows states to offer eligible low-income children and their families a premium assistance subsidy to help pay for employer-sponsored coverage.

## **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](http://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](http://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](http://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, 2021. Contact your State for more information on eligibility –

## **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](mailto:ebsa.opr@dol.gov) and reference the OMB Control Number 1210-0137.

## **Model Disclosure Notice Regarding Patient Protections Against Surprise Billing**

### **Instructions for Providers and Facilities**

**(For use beginning January 1, 2022)**

Section 2799B-3 of the Public Health Service Act (PHS Act) requires health care providers and facilities to make publicly available, post on a public website of the provider or facility (if applicable), and provide a one-page notice that includes the following information in clear and understandable language:

- (1) the federal restrictions on providers and facilities regarding balance billing in certain circumstances,
- (2) any applicable state law protections against balance billing, and
- (3) information on contacting appropriate state and federal agencies if an individual believes a provider or facility has violated the restrictions against balance billing.

Health care providers and facilities can, but aren't required to, use this model notice to meet these disclosure requirements. To use this document properly, the provider or facility should review, complete, and provide it in a manner consistent with applicable state and federal law. HHS considers use of this model notice, in accordance with these instructions, to be good faith compliance with the disclosure requirements of section 2799B-3 of the PHS Act and 45 CFR 149.430, if all other applicable PHS Act requirements are met.

If a state develops model or required language for its disclosure notice that is consistent with section 2799B-3 of the PHS Act, HHS will consider a provider or facility that makes good faith use of the state-developed language compliant with the federal requirement to include information about state law protections.

#### **Public disclosure requirements**

The disclosure notice must be publicly available, and posted on a provider's or facility's website (if applicable).

- **To meet the public disclosure requirement**, providers and facilities must prominently display a sign with the required disclosure information in a location of the provider or facility (such as where individuals schedule care, check-in for appointments, or pay bills), unless the provider doesn't have a publicly accessible location.
- **To meet the separate requirement to post the disclosure on a public website**, the disclosure or a link to the disclosure must be on a searchable homepage of the provider's or facility's public website.

*The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way, unless specifically incorporated into a contract. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law.*



### **Who should get this notice**

In general, providers and facilities must give the disclosure notice to individuals who are:

- Participants, beneficiaries, or enrollees of a group health plan or group or individual health insurance coverage offered by a health insurance issuer, including covered individuals in a health benefits plan under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, and
- To whom the provider or facility furnishes items or services, but only if such items or services are furnished at a health care facility, or in connection with a visit at a health care facility.

Providers and facilities shouldn't give these documents to an individual who has Medicare, Medicaid, or any form of coverage other than previously described, or to an individual who is uninsured.

### **Providing this notice**

Providers and facilities must provide the notice in-person, by mail, or by email, as selected by the individual. The disclosure notice must be limited to one, double-sided page and must use a 12-point font size or larger.

Providers and facilities must issue the disclosure notice no later than the date and time they request payment from the individual (including requests for copayment or coinsurance made at the time of a visit to the provider or facility). If the provider or facility doesn't request payment from the individual, they must provide the notice no later than the date they submit a claim for payment to the plan or issuer.

### **Language access**

#### **Compliance with Federal Civil Rights Laws**

Entities that get federal financial assistance must comply with federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination. These laws include section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Section 1557 and title VI require covered entities to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to individuals with limited English proficiency, which may include offering language assistance services such as translation of written content into languages other than English.

Sections 1557 and 504 require covered entities to take appropriate steps to ensure effective communication with individuals with disabilities, including provision of appropriate auxiliary aids and services. Auxiliary aids and services may include interpreters, large print materials,

accessible information and communication technology, open and closed captioning, and other aids or services for persons who are blind or have low vision, or who are deaf or hard of hearing. Information provided through information and communication technology also must be accessible to individuals with disabilities, unless certain exceptions apply. Providers and facilities are reminded that the disclosure notice must comply with applicable state or federal language-access standards.

### **Use of plain language**

Health care providers and facilities are encouraged to use plain language in the disclosure notice and test the notice for clarity and usability when possible.

Plain language, accessibility, and language access resources:

- [Plainlanguage.gov/guidelines](http://Plainlanguage.gov/guidelines)
- [Section508.gov](http://Section508.gov)
- [LEP.gov](http://LEP.gov)

**NOTE:** The information provided in these instructions is intended to be only a general summary of technical legal standards. It isn't intended to take the place of the statutes, regulations, or formal policy guidance on which it is based. Refer to the applicable statutes, regulations, and other interpretive materials for complete and current information.

**DON'T INCLUDE THESE INSTRUCTIONS WITH THE DISCLOSURE NOTICE GIVEN TO PATIENTS.**

### **Paperwork Reduction Act Statement**

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0938-1401. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 3.5 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: PRA Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

**Instructions for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers**  
**(For use for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2022)**

Federal law requires group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage to make publicly available, post on a public website of the plan or issuer, and include on each explanation of benefits for an item or service with respect to which the requirements under section 9816 of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code), section 716 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), and section 2799A-1 of the Public Health Service Act (PHS Act) apply, information in plain language on:

- (1) the federal restrictions on balance billing in certain circumstances,
- (2) any applicable state law protections against balance billing,
- (3) the requirements under Code section 9816, ERISA section 716, and PHS Act section 2799A-1, and
- (4) information on contacting appropriate state and federal agencies if an individual believes a provider or facility has violated the restrictions against balance billing.<sup>2</sup>

Plans and issuers can, but aren't required to, use this model notice to meet these disclosure requirements. To use this document properly, the plan or issuer should review, complete, and provide it in a manner consistent with applicable state and federal law. The Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and the Treasury (the Departments) consider use of this model notice, in accordance with these instructions, to be good faith compliance with the disclosure requirements of section 9820(c) of the Code, section 720(c) of ERISA, and section 2799A-5(c) of the PHS Act, if all other applicable requirements are met.

If a state develops model or required language for its disclosure notice that is consistent with section 9820(c) of the Code, section 720(c) of ERISA, and section 2799A-5(c) of the PHS Act, the Departments will consider a plan or issuer that makes good faith use of the state-developed language compliant with the federal requirement to include information about state law protections.

**Language access**

**Compliance with Federal Civil Rights Laws**

Entities that get federal financial assistance must comply with federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination. These laws include section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Section 1557 and title VI require covered entities to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to

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<sup>2</sup> Section 9820(c) of the Code, section 720(c) of ERISA, and section 2799A-5(c) of the PHS Act.

individuals with limited English proficiency, which may include offering language assistance services such as translation of written content into languages other than English.

Sections 1557 and 504 require covered entities to take appropriate steps to ensure effective communication with individuals with disabilities, including provision of appropriate auxiliary aids and services. Auxiliary aids and services may include interpreters, large print materials, accessible information and communication technology, open and closed captioning, and other aids or services for persons who are blind or have low vision, or who are deaf or hard of hearing. Information provided through information and communication technology also must be accessible to individuals with disabilities, unless certain exceptions apply. Plans and issuers are reminded that the disclosure notice must comply with applicable state or federal language-access standards.

### **Use of Plain Language**

Plans and issuers are encouraged to use plain language in the disclosure notice and test the notice for clarity and usability when possible.

Plain language, accessibility, and language access resources:

- [Plainlanguage.gov/guidelines](https://www.plainlanguage.gov/guidelines)
- [Section508.gov](https://www.section508.gov)
- [LEP.gov](https://www.lep.gov)

**NOTE:** The information provided in these instructions is intended to be only a general summary of technical legal standards. It isn't intended to take the place of the statutes, regulations, or formal policy guidance on which it is based. Refer to the applicable statutes, regulations, and other interpretive materials for complete and current information.

**DON'T INCLUDE THESE INSTRUCTIONS WITH THE DISCLOSURE NOTICE GIVEN TO PARTICIPANTS, BENEFICIARIES, OR ENROLLEES.**

### **Paperwork Reduction Act Statement**

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0938-1401. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 3.5 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: PRA Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

# Your Rights and Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills

When you get emergency care or are treated by an out-of-network provider at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, you are protected from balance billing. In these cases, you shouldn't be charged more than your plan's copayments, coinsurance and/or deductible.

## **What is “balance billing” (sometimes called “surprise billing”)?**

When you see a doctor or other health care provider, you may owe certain [out-of-pocket costs](#), like a [copayment](#), [coinsurance](#), or [deductible](#). You may have additional costs or have to pay the entire bill if you see a provider or visit a health care facility that isn't in your health plan's network.

“Out-of-network” means providers and facilities that haven't signed a contract with your health plan to provide services. Out-of-network providers may be allowed to bill you for the difference between what your plan pays and the full amount charged for a service. This is called “**balance billing**.” This amount is likely more than in-network costs for the same service and might not count toward your plan's deductible or annual out-of-pocket limit.

“Surprise billing” is an unexpected balance bill. This can happen when you can't control who is involved in your care—like when you have an emergency or when you schedule a visit at an in-network facility but are unexpectedly treated by an out-of-network provider. Surprise medical bills could cost thousands of dollars depending on the procedure or service.

## **You're protected from balance billing for:**

### **Emergency services**

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

*[Insert plain language summary of any applicable state balance billing laws or requirements OR state-developed language as appropriate]*

### **Certain services at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center**

When you get services from an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, certain providers there may be out-of-network. In these cases, the most those providers can bill you is your plan's in-network cost-sharing amount. This applies to emergency medicine, anesthesia,

pathology, radiology, laboratory, neonatology, assistant surgeon, hospitalist, or intensivist services. These providers **can't** balance bill you and may **not** ask you to give up your protections not to be balance billed.

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

**You're never required to give up your protections from balance billing. You also aren't required to get out-of-network care. You can choose a provider or facility in your plan's network.**

*[Insert plain language summary of any applicable state balance billing laws or requirements OR state-developed language regarding applicable state law requirements as appropriate]*

**When balance billing isn't allowed, you also have these protections:**

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

**If you think you've been wrongly billed**, contact *[Insert contact information for entity responsible for enforcing the federal and/or state balance or surprise billing protection laws. The federal phone number for information and complaints is: 1-800-985-3059].*

Visit *[Insert website describing federal protections, such as [www.cms.gov/nosurprises/consumers](http://www.cms.gov/nosurprises/consumers)]* for more information about your rights under federal law.

*[If applicable, insert: Visit [\[website\]](#) for more information about your rights under [\[state laws\]](#).]*





# YOUR RIGHTS UNDER USERRA

## THE UNIFORMED SERVICES EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT

**USERRA protects the job rights of individuals who voluntarily or involuntarily leave employment positions to undertake military service or certain types of service in the National Disaster Medical System. USERRA also prohibits employers from discriminating against past and present members of the uniformed services, and applicants to the uniformed services.**

### REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

You have the right to be reemployed in your civilian job if you leave that job to perform service in the uniformed service and:

- ☆ you ensure that your employer receives advance written or verbal notice of your service;
- ☆ you have five years or less of cumulative service in the uniformed services while with that particular employer;
- ☆ you return to work or apply for reemployment in a timely manner after conclusion of service; and
- ☆ you have not been separated from service with a disqualifying discharge or under other than honorable conditions.

If you are eligible to be reemployed, you must be restored to the job and benefits you would have attained if you had not been absent due to military service or, in some cases, a comparable job.

### RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION

If you:

- ☆ are a past or present member of the uniformed service;
- ☆ have applied for membership in the uniformed service; or
- ☆ are obligated to serve in the uniformed service;

then an employer may not deny you:

- ☆ initial employment;
- ☆ reemployment;
- ☆ retention in employment;
- ☆ promotion; or
- ☆ any benefit of employment

because of this status.

In addition, an employer may not retaliate against anyone assisting in the enforcement of USERRA rights, including testifying or making a statement in connection with a proceeding under USERRA, even if that person has no service connection.

### HEALTH INSURANCE PROTECTION

- ☆ 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.
- ☆ 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.

### ENFORCEMENT

- ☆ The U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) is authorized to investigate and resolve complaints of USERRA violations.
- ☆ For assistance in filing a complaint, or for any other information on USERRA, contact VETS at 1-866-4-USA-DOL or visit its website at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/>. An interactive online USERRA Advisor can be viewed at <https://webapps.dol.gov/elaws/vets/userra>
- ☆ If you file a complaint with VETS and VETS is unable to resolve it, you may request that your case be referred to the Department of Justice or the Office of Special Counsel, as applicable, for representation.
- ☆ You may also bypass the VETS process and bring a civil action against an employer for violations of USERRA.

The rights listed here may vary depending on the circumstances. The text of this notice was prepared by VETS, and may be viewed on the internet at this address: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/userra/poster> Federal law requires employers to notify employees of their rights under USERRA, and employers may meet this requirement by displaying the text of this notice where they customarily place notices for employees.



**U.S. Department of Labor**  
1-866-487-2365



**U.S. Department of Justice**



**Office of Special Counsel**



**1-800-336-4590**

Publication Date – May 2022



# Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage

Form Approved  
OMB No. 1210-0149  
(expires 12-31-2026)

## PART A: General Information

Even if you are offered health coverage through your employment, you may have other coverage options through the Health Insurance Marketplace ("Marketplace"). To assist you as you evaluate options for you and your family, this notice provides some basic information about the Health Insurance Marketplace and health coverage offered through your employment.

### 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 in your geographic area.

### Can I Save Money on my Health Insurance Premiums in the Marketplace?

You may qualify to save money and lower your monthly premium and other out-of-pocket costs, but only if your employer does not offer coverage, or offers coverage that is not considered affordable for you and doesn't meet certain minimum value standards (discussed below). The savings that you're eligible for depends on your household income. You may also be eligible for a tax credit that lowers your costs.

### Does Employment-Based Health Coverage Affect Eligibility for Premium Savings through the Marketplace?

Yes. If you have an offer of health coverage from your employer that is considered affordable for you and meets certain minimum value standards, you will not be eligible for a tax credit, or advance payment of the tax credit, for your Marketplace coverage and may wish to enroll in your employment-based health plan. However, you may be eligible for a tax credit, and advance payments of the 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 is considered affordable for you or meet minimum value standards. If your share of the premium cost of all plans offered to you through your employment is more than 9.12%<sup>1</sup> of your annual household income, or if the coverage through your employment does not meet the "minimum value" standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit, and advance payment of the credit, if you do not enroll in the employment-based health coverage. For family members of the employee, coverage is considered affordable if the employee's cost of premiums for the lowest-cost plan that would cover all family members does not exceed 9.12% of the employee's household income.<sup>1,2</sup>

**Note:** If you purchase a health plan through the Marketplace instead of accepting health coverage offered through your employment, then you may lose access to whatever the employer contributes to the employment-based coverage. Also, this employer contribution -as well as your employee contribution to employment-based coverage- is generally excluded from income for federal and state income tax purposes. Your payments for coverage through the Marketplace are made on an after-tax basis. In addition, note that if the health coverage offered through your employment does not meet the affordability or minimum value standards, but you accept that coverage anyway, you will not be eligible for a tax credit. You should consider all of these factors in determining whether to purchase a health plan through the Marketplace.

<sup>1</sup> Indexed annually; see <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/rp-22-34.pdf> for 2023.

<sup>2</sup> An employer-sponsored or other employment-based health plan meets the "minimum value standard" if the plan's share of the total allowed benefit costs covered by the plan is no less than 60 percent of such costs. For purposes of eligibility for the premium tax credit, to meet the "minimum value standard," the health plan must also provide substantial coverage of both inpatient hospital services and physician services.

## When Can I Enroll in Health Insurance Coverage through the Marketplace?

You can enroll in a Marketplace health insurance plan during the annual Marketplace Open Enrollment Period. Open Enrollment varies by state but generally starts November 1 and continues through at least December 15.

Outside the annual Open Enrollment Period, you can sign up for health insurance if you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period. In general, you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period if you've had certain qualifying life events, such as getting married, having a baby, adopting a child, or losing eligibility for other health coverage. Depending on your Special Enrollment Period type, you may have 60 days before or 60 days following the qualifying life event to enroll in a Marketplace plan.

There is also a Marketplace Special Enrollment Period for individuals and their families who lose eligibility for Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage on or after March 31, 2023, through July 31, 2024. Since the onset of the nationwide COVID-19 public health emergency, state Medicaid and CHIP agencies generally have not terminated the enrollment of any Medicaid or CHIP beneficiary who was enrolled on or after March 18, 2020, through March 31, 2023. As state Medicaid and CHIP agencies resume regular eligibility and enrollment practices, many individuals may no longer be eligible for Medicaid or CHIP coverage starting as early as March 31, 2023. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is offering a temporary Marketplace Special Enrollment period to allow these individuals to enroll in Marketplace coverage.

Marketplace-eligible individuals who live in states served by HealthCare.gov and either- submit a new application or update an existing application on HealthCare.gov between March 31, 2023 and July 31, 2024, and attest to a termination date of Medicaid or CHIP coverage within the same time period, are eligible for a 60-day Special Enrollment Period. **That means that if you lose Medicaid or CHIP coverage between March 31, 2023, and July 31, 2024, you may be able to enroll in Marketplace coverage within 60 days of when you lost Medicaid or CHIP coverage.** In addition, if you or your family members are enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP coverage, it is important to make sure that your contact information is up to date to make sure you get any information about changes to your eligibility. To learn more, visit HealthCare.gov or call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596. TTY users can call 1-855-889-4325.

## What about Alternatives to Marketplace Health Insurance Coverage?

If you or your family are eligible for coverage in an employment-based health plan (such as an employer-sponsored health plan), you or your family may also be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period to enroll in that health plan in certain circumstances, including if you or your dependents were enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP coverage and lost that coverage. Generally, you have 60 days after the loss of Medicaid or CHIP coverage to enroll in an employment-based health plan, but if you and your family lost eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP coverage between March 31, 2023 and July 10, 2023, you can request this special enrollment in the employment-based health plan through September 8, 2023. Confirm the deadline with your employer or your employment-based health plan.

Alternatively, you can enroll in Medicaid or CHIP coverage at any time by filling out an application through the Marketplace or applying directly through your state Medicaid agency. Visit <https://www.healthcare.gov/medicaid-chip/getting-medicaid-chip/> for more details.

## How Can I Get More Information?

For more information about your coverage offered through your employment, please check your health plan's summary plan description or contact

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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.

## PART B: Information About Health Coverage Offered by Your Employer

This section contains information about any health coverage offered by your employer. If you decide to complete an application for coverage in the Marketplace, you will be asked to provide this information. This information is numbered to correspond to the Marketplace application.

3. Employer name Sheehy Auto Stores		4. Employer Identification Number (EIN) 52-1139930	
5. Employer address 12701 Fair Lakes Circle, Suite 250		6. Employer phone number (703)802-3480 Ext 14701	
7. City Fairfax	8. State Virginia	9. ZIP code 22033	
10. Who can we contact about employee health coverage at this job? Shawn Lumpkin			
11. Phone number (if different from above) (703) 802-3480 Ext 14701		12. Email address shawnlumpkin@sheehy.com	

Here is some basic information about health coverage offered by this employer:

- As your employer, we offer a health plan to:

All employees. Eligible employees are:

- Employees: A person directly employed in the regular business of, and compensated for, services by the Company, who is employed on average at least 30 hours of service per week. This definition specifically excludes independent contractors.

Some employees. Eligible employees are:

- With respect to dependents:

We do offer coverage. Eligible dependents are:

- Dependent Children: Child(ren) from birth to the last day of the month they attain age 26 consisting of natural children, stepchildren, foster children, adopted children, children placed for adoption, and children for whom You are the court-appointed legal guardian.
- Spouse: This Plan defines "marriage" as both 1) a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, legally married in a jurisdiction (domestic or foreign) that recognizes their marriage, and 2) a legal union between two persons of the same sex, legally married in a jurisdiction (domestic or foreign) that recognizes their marriage. Marriage does not include a civil union, domestic partnership or any other similar arrangement.
- Domestic Partners: This Plan does not cover Domestic Partners.

We do not offer coverage.

- If checked, this coverage meets the minimum value standard, and the cost of this coverage to you is intended to be affordable, based on employee wages.

\*\* Even if your employer intends your coverage to be affordable, you may still be eligible for a premium discount

through the Marketplace. The Marketplace will use your household income, along with other factors, to determine whether you may be eligible for a premium discount. If, for example, your wages vary from week to week (perhaps you are an hourly employee or you work on a commission basis), if you are newly employed mid-year, or if you have other income losses, you may still qualify for a premium discount.

If you decide to shop for coverage in the Marketplace, [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) will guide you through the process. Here's the employer information you'll enter when you visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) to find out if you can get a tax credit to lower your monthly premiums.

The information below corresponds to the Marketplace Employer Coverage Tool. Completing this section is optional for employers, but will help ensure employees understand their coverage choices.

13. **Is the employee currently eligible for coverage offered by this employer, or will the employee be eligible in the next 3 months?**

**Yes** (Continue)  
13a. If the employee is not eligible today, including as a result of a waiting or probationary period, when is the employee eligible for coverage? \_\_\_\_\_ (mm/dd/yyyy) (Continue)

**No** (STOP and return this form to employee)

14. Does the employer offer a health plan that meets the minimum value standard\*?  
 Yes (Go to question 15)  No (STOP and return form to employee)

15. For the lowest-cost plan that meets the minimum value standard\* **offered only to the employee** (don't include family plans): If the employer has wellness programs, provide the premium that the employee would pay if he/ she received the maximum discount for any tobacco cessation programs, and didn't receive any other discounts based on wellness programs.

a. How much would the employee have to pay in premiums for this plan? \$25.00

b. How often?  Weekly  Every 2 weeks  Twice a month  Monthly  Quarterly  Yearly

If the plan year will end soon and you know that the health plans offered will change, go to question 16. If you don't know, STOP and return form to employee.

16. What change will the employer make for the new plan year? \_\_\_\_\_

Employer won't offer health coverage  
 Employer will start offering health coverage to employees or change the premium for the lowest-cost plan available only to the employee that meets the minimum value standard.\* (Premium should reflect the discount for wellness programs. See question 15.)

a. How much would the employee have to pay in premiums for this plan? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

b. How often?  Weekly  Every 2 weeks  Twice a month  Monthly  Quarterly  Yearly

\* An employer-sponsored health plan meets the "minimum value standard" if the plan's share of the total allowed benefit costs covered by the plan is no less than 60 percent of such costs (Section 36B(c)(2)(C)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986)

# Medicare Part D Creditable Coverage Notice

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## Important Notice from Sheehy Auto Stores 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 with Sheehy Auto Stores 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 plans 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 also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.
2. Sheehy Auto Stores has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Sheehy Auto Group Welfare Benefit Plan is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is 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 15<sup>th</sup> to December 7<sup>th</sup>.

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 current Sheehy Auto Stores coverage will not be affected. Plan participants can keep their prescription drug coverage under the group health plan if they select Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage. If they select Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage, the group health plan prescription drug coverage will coordinate with the Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Sheehy Auto Stores coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will be able to get this coverage back.



## 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 Sheehy Auto Stores 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 nineteen 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 call Shawn Lumpkin at (703) 802-3480 x 14701.

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 Sheehy Auto Stores 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 drug plans.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

- Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://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](http://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 (a penalty).**

Date: 1/01/2025

Name of Entity/Sender: Sheehy Auto Stores

Contact--Position/Office: Shawn Lumpkin, Human Resources Director

Address: 12701 Fair Lakes Circle, Suite 250 Fairfax, Virginia 22033

Phone Number: (703) 802-3480 x 14701