

# **State of Maine**

## **HEALTH PLAN NOTICES**

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### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**This packet of notices related to our health care plan includes a notice regarding how the plan's prescription drug coverage compares to Medicare Part D. If you or a covered family member is also enrolled in Medicare Parts A or B, but not Part D, you should read the Medicare Part D notice carefully. It is titled, "Important Notice From State of Maine About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare."**

**MEDICARE PART D CREDITABLE COVERAGE NOTICE**  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM STATE OF MAINE 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 State of Maine and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether you want to join a Medicare drug plan. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.

If neither you nor any of your covered dependents are eligible for or have Medicare, this notice does not apply to you or your dependents, as the case may be. However, you should still keep a copy of this notice in the event you or a dependent should qualify for coverage under Medicare in the future. Please note, however, that later notices might supersede this notice.

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. State of Maine has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the State of Maine Employee Health Care Plan ("Plan") is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is considered "creditable" prescription drug coverage.

Because your existing coverage is, on average, at least as good as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to enroll in a Medicare drug plan, as long as you later enroll within specific time periods.

**Enrolling in Medicare—General Rules**

As some background, you can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare. If you qualify for Medicare due to age, you may enroll in a Medicare drug plan during a seven-month initial enrollment period. That period begins three months prior to your 65th birthday, includes the month you turn 65, and continues for the ensuing three months. If you qualify for Medicare due to disability or end-stage renal disease, your initial Medicare Part D enrollment period depends on the date your disability or treatment began. For more information you should contact Medicare at the telephone number or web address listed below.

**Late Enrollment and the Late Enrollment Penalty**

If you decide to *wait* to enroll in a Medicare drug plan you may enroll later, during Medicare Part D's annual enrollment period, which runs each year from October 15 through December 7. But as a general rule, if you delay your enrollment in Medicare Part D, after first becoming eligible to enroll, you may have to pay a higher premium (a penalty).

If after your initial Medicare Part D enrollment period you go **63 continuous days or longer without "creditable" prescription drug coverage** (that is, prescription drug coverage that's at least as good as Medicare's prescription drug coverage), your monthly Part D premium may go up by at least 1 percent of the premium you would have paid had you enrolled timely, for every month that you did not have creditable coverage.

For example, if after your Medicare Part D initial enrollment period you go 19 months without coverage, your premium may be at least 19% higher than the premium you otherwise would have paid. You may have to pay this higher premium for as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. *However, there are some important exceptions to the late enrollment penalty.*

### **Special Enrollment Period Exceptions to the Late Enrollment Penalty**

There are “special enrollment periods” that allow you to add Medicare Part D coverage months or even years after you first became eligible to do so, without a penalty. For example, if after your Medicare Part D initial enrollment period you lose or decide to leave employer-sponsored or union-sponsored health coverage that includes “creditable” prescription drug coverage, you will be eligible to join a Medicare drug plan at that time.

In addition, if you otherwise lose other creditable prescription drug coverage (such as under an individual policy) through no fault of your own, you will be able to join a Medicare drug plan, again without penalty. These special enrollment periods end two months after the month in which your other coverage ends.

### **Compare Coverage**

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. See the State of Maine Plan’s summary plan description for a summary of the Plan’s prescription drug coverage. If you don’t have a copy, you can get one by contacting us at the telephone number or address listed below.

### **Coordinating Other Coverage With Medicare Part D**

Generally speaking, if you decide to join a Medicare drug plan while covered under the State of Maine Plan due to your employment (or someone else’s employment, such as a spouse or parent), your coverage under the State of Maine Plan will not be affected. For most persons covered under the Plan, the Plan will pay prescription drug benefits first, and Medicare will determine its payments second. For more information about this issue of what program pays first and what program pays second, see the Plan’s summary plan description or contact Medicare at the telephone number or web address listed below.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your State of Maine prescription drug coverage, be aware that you and your dependents may not be able to get this coverage back. To regain coverage you would have to re-enroll in the Plan, pursuant to the Plan’s eligibility and enrollment rules. You should review the Plan’s summary plan description to determine if and when you are allowed to add coverage.

### **For More Information About This Notice or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage...**

Contact the person listed below for further information, or call 800-422-4503. **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 State of Maine changes. You also may request a copy.

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

Date:	April 23, 2025
Name of Entity/Sender:	Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez
Contact—Position/Office: and Workers' Compensation	Executive Director, Office of Employee Health and Wellness
Address:	61 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333
Phone Number:	800-422-4503

**Nothing in this notice gives you or your dependents a right to coverage under the Plan. Your (or your dependents') right to coverage under the Plan is determined solely under the terms of the Plan.**

**HIPAA COMPREHENSIVE NOTICE OF PRIVACY POLICY**  
**AND PROCEDURES**

**STATE OF MAINE**  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**COMPREHENSIVE NOTICE OF PRIVACY POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

<p style="text-align:center"><b>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.</b></p>
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This notice is provided to you on behalf of:

**State of Maine Medical Plan**  
**State of Maine Dental Care Plan**  
**State of Maine Vision Plan**  
**State of Maine Flexible Benefits Plan**

These plans comprise what is called an “Affiliated Covered Entity,” and are treated as a single plan for purposes of this notice and the privacy rules that require it. For purposes of this notice, we will refer to these plans as a single “Plan.”

For the remainder of this notice, State of Maine is referred to as Company.

1. Introduction: This Notice is being provided to all covered participants in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and is intended to apprise you of the legal duties and privacy practices of the Company's self-insured group health plans. If you are a participant in any fully insured group health plan of the Company, then the insurance carriers with respect to those plans is required to provide you with a separate privacy notice regarding its practices.

2. General Rule: A group health plan is required by HIPAA to maintain the privacy of protected health information, to provide individuals with notices of the plan's legal duties and privacy practices with respect to protected health information, and to notify affected individuals follow a breach of unsecured protected health information. In general, a group health plan may only disclose protected health information (i) for the purpose of carrying out treatment, payment and health care operations of the plan, (ii) pursuant to your written authorization; or (iii) for any other permitted purpose under the HIPAA regulations.

3. Protected Health Information: The term "protected health information" includes all individually identifiable health information transmitted or maintained by a group health plan, regardless of whether or not that information is maintained in an oral, written or electronic format. Protected health information does not include employment records or health information that has been stripped of all individually identifiable information and with respect to which there is no reasonable basis to believe that the health information can be used to identify any particular individual.

4. Use and Disclosure for Treatment, Payment and Health Care Operations: A group health plan may use protected health information without your authorization to carry out treatment, payment and health care operations of the group health plan.

- An example of a "treatment" activity includes consultation between the plan and your health care provider regarding your coverage under the plan.
- Examples of "payment" activities include billing, claims management, and medical necessity reviews.
- Examples of "health care operations" include disease management and case management activities.

The group health plan may also disclose protected health information to a designated group of employees of the Company, known as the HIPAA privacy team, for the purpose of carrying out plan administrative functions, including treatment, payment and health care operations.

If protected health information is properly disclosed under the HIPAA Privacy Practices, such information may be subject to redisclosure by the recipient and no longer protected under the HIPAA Privacy Practices.

5. Disclosure for Underwriting Purposes. A group health plan is generally prohibited from using or disclosing protected health information that is genetic information of an individual for purposes of underwriting.

6. Uses and Disclosures Requiring Written Authorization: Subject to certain exceptions described elsewhere in this Notice or set forth in regulations of the Department of Health and Human Services, a group health plan may not disclose protected health information for reasons unrelated to treatment, payment or health care operations without your authorization. Specifically, a group health plan may not use your protected health information for marketing purposes or sell your protected health information. Any use or disclosure not disclosed in this Notice will be made only with your written authorization. If you authorize a disclosure of protected health information, it will be disclosed solely for the purpose of your authorization and may be revoked at any time. Authorization forms are available from the Privacy Official identified in section 23.

7. Special Rule for Mental Health Information: Your written authorization generally will be obtained before a group health plan will use or disclose psychotherapy notes (if any) about you.

8. Uses and Disclosures for which Authorization or Opportunity to Object is not Required: A group health plan may use and disclose your protected health information without your authorization under the following circumstances:

- When required by law;
- When permitted for purposes of public health activities;
- When authorized by law to report information about abuse, neglect or domestic violence to public authorities;
- When authorized by law to a public health oversight agency for oversight activities (subject to certain limitation described in paragraph 20 below);
- When required for judicial or administrative proceedings (subject to certain limitation described in paragraph 20 below);
- When required for law enforcement purposes (subject to certain limitation described in paragraph 20 below);
- When required to be given to a coroner or medical examiner or funeral director (subject to certain limitation described in paragraph 20 below);
- When disclosed to an organ procurement organization;
- When used for research, subject to certain conditions;
- When necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public and the disclosure is to a person reasonably able to prevent or lessen the threat; and
- When authorized by and to the extent necessary to comply with workers' compensation or other similar programs established by law.

9. Minimum Necessary Standard: When using or disclosing protected health information or when requesting protected health information from another covered entity, a group health plan must make reasonable efforts not to use, disclose or request more than the minimum amount of protected health information necessary to accomplish the intended purpose of the use, disclosure or request. The minimum necessary standard will not apply to: disclosures to or requests by a health care provider for treatment; uses or disclosures made to the individual about his or her own protected health information, as permitted or required by HIPAA; disclosures made to the Department of Health and Human Services; or uses or disclosures that are required by law.

10. Disclosures of Summary Health Information: A group health plan may use or disclose summary health information to the Company for the purpose of obtaining premium bids or modifying, amending or terminating the group health plan. Summary health information summarizes the participant claims history and other information without identifying information specific to any one individual.

11. Disclosures of Enrollment Information: A group health plan may disclose to the Company information on whether an individual is enrolled in or has disenrolled in the plan.

12. Disclosure to the Department of Health and Human Services: A group health plan may use and disclose your protected health information to the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate or determine the group health plan's compliance with the privacy regulations.

13. Disclosures to Family Members, other Relations and Close Personal Friends: A group health plan may disclose protected health information to your family members, other relatives, close personal friends and anyone else you choose, if: (i) the information is directly relevant to the person's involvement with your care or payment for that care, and (ii) either you have agreed to the disclosure, you have been given an opportunity to object and have not

objected, or it is reasonably inferred from the circumstances, based on the plan's common practice, that you would not object to the disclosure.

For example, if you are married, the plan will share your protected health information with your spouse if he or she reasonably demonstrates to the plan and its representatives that he or she is acting on your behalf and with your consent. Your spouse might do so by providing the plan with your claim number or social security number. Similarly, the plan will normally share protected health information about a dependent child (whether or not emancipated) with the child's parents. The plan might also disclose your protected health information to your family members, other relatives, and close personal friends if you are unable to make health care decisions about yourself due to incapacity or an emergency.

14. Appointment of a Personal Representative: You may exercise your rights through a personal representative upon appropriate proof of authority (including, for example, a notarized power of attorney). The group health plan retains discretion to deny access to your protected health information to a personal representative.

15. Individual Right to Request Restrictions on Use or Disclosure of Protected Health Information: You may request the group health plan to restrict (1) uses and disclosures of your protected health information to carry out treatment, payment or health care operations, or (2) uses and disclosures to family members, relatives, friends or other persons identified by you who are involved in your care or payment for your care. However, the group health plan is not required to and normally will not agree to your request in the absence of special circumstances. A covered entity (other than a group health plan) must agree to the request of an individual to restrict disclosure of protected health information about the individual to the group health plan, if (a) the disclosure is for the purpose of carrying out payment or health care operations and is not otherwise required by law, and (b) the protected health information pertains solely to a health care item or service for which the individual (or person other than the health plan on behalf of the individual) has paid the covered entity in full.

16. Individual Right to Request Alternative Communications: The group health plan will accommodate reasonable written requests to receive communications of protected health information by alternative means or at alternative locations (such as an alternative telephone number or mailing address) if you represent that disclosure otherwise could endanger you. The plan will not normally accommodate a request to receive communications of protected health information by alternative means or at alternative locations for reasons other than your endangerment unless special circumstances warrant an exception.

17. Individual Right to Inspect and Copy Protected Health Information: You have a right to inspect and obtain a copy of your protected health information contained in a "designated record set," for as long as the group health plan maintains the protected health information. A "designated record set" includes the medical records and billing records about individuals maintained by or for a covered health care provider; enrollment, payment, billing, claims adjudication and case or medical management record systems maintained by or for a health plan; or other information used in whole or in part by or for the group health to make decisions about individuals.

The requested information will be provided within 30 days if the information is maintained on site or within 60 days if the information is maintained offsite. A single 30-day extension is allowed if the group health plan is unable to comply with the deadline. If access is denied, you or your personal representative will be provided with a written denial setting forth the basis for the denial, a description of how you may exercise those review rights and a description of how you may contact the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

18. Individual Right to Amend Protected Health Information: You have the right to request the group health plan to amend your protected health information for as long as the protected health information is maintained in the designated record set. The group health plan has 60 days after the request is made to act on the request. A single 30-day extension is allowed if the group health plan is unable to comply with the deadline. If the request is denied in whole or part, the group health plan must provide you with a written denial that explains the basis for the denial. You may then submit a written statement disagreeing with the denial and have that statement included with any future disclosures of your protected health information.

19. Right to Receive an Accounting of Protected Health Information Disclosures: You have the right to request an accounting of all disclosures of your protected health information by the group health plan during the six years



prior to the date of your request. However, such accounting need not include disclosures made: (1) to carry out treatment, payment or health care operations; (2) to individuals about their own protected health information; (3) prior to the compliance date; or (4) pursuant to an individual's authorization.

If the accounting cannot be provided within 60 days, an additional 30 days is allowed if the individual is given a written statement of the reasons for the delay and the date by which the accounting will be provided. If you request more than one accounting within a 12-month period, the group health plan may charge a reasonable fee for each subsequent accounting.

20. Reproductive Health Care Privacy: Effective December 23, 2024, a group health plan may not disclose protected health information to: (i) conduct a criminal, civil, or administrative investigation into a person for the mere act of seeking, obtaining, providing, or facilitating reproductive health care; (ii) impose criminal, civil, or administrative liability on any person for the mere act of seeking, obtaining, providing, or facilitating reproductive health care; or (iii) identify any person for the purposes described in (i) and (ii).

Reproductive health care means care, services, or supplies related to the reproductive health of the individual.

This prohibition only applies if the reproductive health care is lawful under the law of the state in which the health care was provided and under the circumstances in which it was provided, or if the reproductive health care was protected, required, or authorized by Federal law, including the United States Constitution, regardless of the state in which it is provided. For example, if you receive reproductive health care in a state where such care is lawful even though it is not lawful in the state where you reside, the plan may not disclose this information to conduct an investigation.

A group health plan may not use or disclose protected health information potentially related to reproductive health care for the purposes of uses and disclosures of 1) public health oversight activities, 2) judicial and administrative proceedings, 3) law enforcement purposes, and 4) coroners and medical examiners without obtaining a valid attestation from the person requesting the use or disclosure of such information. A valid attestation under this section must include the following elements:

(i) A description of the information requested that identifies the information in a specific fashion, including one of the following: (A) the name of any individual(s) whose protected health information is sought, if practicable; and (B) if including the name(s) of any individual(s) whose protected health information is sought is not practicable, a description of the class of individuals whose protected health information is sought.

(ii) The name or other specific identification of the person(s), or class of persons, who are requested to make the use or disclosure.

(iii) The name or other specific identification of the person(s), or class of persons, to whom the covered entity is to make the requested use or disclosure.

(iv) A clear statement that the use or disclosure is not for a purpose prohibited by the reproductive health care regulation.

(v) A statement that a person may be subject to criminal penalties if that person knowingly and in violation of HIPAA obtains individually identifiable health information relating to an individual or discloses individually identifiable health information to another person.

(vi) Signature of the person requesting the protected health information, which may be an electronic signature, and date. If the attestation is signed by a representative of the person requesting the information, a description of such representative's authority to act for the person must also be provided.

For example, if you lawfully obtain an abortion and an investigation into the provider is conducted, law enforcement would need to submit an attestation in order to try and obtain the information. The plan would deny the request per HIPAA's prohibition on the disclosure of reproductive health care because such care was lawful.

21. The Right to Receive a Paper Copy of This Notice Upon Request: If you are receiving this Notice in an electronic format, then you have the right to receive a written copy of this Notice free of charge by contacting the Privacy Official (see section 24).

22. Changes in the Privacy Practice. Each group health plan reserves the right to change its privacy practices from time to time by action of the Privacy Official. You will be provided with an advance notice of any material change in the plan's privacy practices.

23. Your Right to File a Complaint with the Group Health Plan or the Department of Health and Human Services: If you believe that your privacy rights have been violated, you may complain to the group health plan in care of the HIPAA Privacy Official (see section 24). You may also file a complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201. The group health plan will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

24. Person to Contact at the Group Health Plan for More Information: If you have any questions regarding this Notice or the subjects addressed in it, you may contact the Privacy Official.

### **Privacy Official**

The Plan's Privacy Official, the person responsible for ensuring compliance with this notice, is:

Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez  
Executive Director, Office of Employee Health and Wellness and Workers' Compensation  
800-422-4503

### **Organized Health Care Arrangement Designation**

The Plan participates in what the federal privacy rules call an "Organized Health Care Arrangement." The purpose of that participation is that it allows PHI to be shared between the members of the Arrangement, without authorization by the persons whose PHI is shared, for health care operations. Primarily, the designation is useful to the Plan because it allows the insurers who participate in the Arrangement to share PHI with the Plan for purposes such as shopping for other insurance bids.

The members of the Organized Health Care Arrangement are:

**State of Maine Medical Plan**  
**State of Maine Dental Care Plan**  
**State of Maine Vision Plan**  
**State of Maine Flexible Benefits Plan**

### **Effective Date**

The effective date of this notice is: April 23, 2025.

## **NOTICE OF SPECIAL ENROLLMENT RIGHTS**

### **STATE OF MAINE EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE PLAN**

If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance or group health plan coverage, you may be able to later enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage (or if the employer stops contributing toward your or your dependents' other coverage).

Loss of eligibility includes but is not limited to:

- Loss of eligibility for coverage as a result of ceasing to meet the plan's eligibility requirements (e.g., divorce, cessation of dependent status, death of an employee, termination of employment, reduction in the number of hours of employment);
- Loss of HMO coverage because the person no longer resides or works in the HMO service area and no other coverage option is available through the HMO plan sponsor;
- Elimination of the coverage option a person was enrolled in, and another option is not offered in its place;
- Failing to return from an FMLA leave of absence; and
- Loss of eligibility under Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Unless the event giving rise to your special enrollment right is a loss of eligibility under Medicaid or CHIP, you must request enrollment within *30 days* after your or your dependent's(s') other coverage ends (or after the employer that sponsors that coverage stops contributing toward the coverage).

If the event giving rise to your special enrollment right is a loss of coverage under Medicaid or CHIP, you may request enrollment under this plan within *60 days* of the date you or your dependent(s) lose such coverage under Medicaid or CHIP. Similarly, if you or your dependent(s) become eligible for a state-granted premium subsidy toward this plan, you may request enrollment under this plan within *60 days* after the date Medicaid or CHIP determine that you or the dependent(s) qualify for the subsidy.

In addition, if you have a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents. However, you must request enrollment within *30 days* after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact:

Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez  
Executive Director, Office of Employee Health and Wellness and Workers' Compensation  
800-422-4503

***\* This notice is relevant for healthcare coverages subject to the HIPAA portability rules.***

## GENERAL COBRA NOTICE

### Introduction

You're getting this notice because you recently gained coverage under a group health plan (the Plan). This notice has important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. **This notice explains COBRA continuation coverage, when it may become available to you and your family, and what you need to do to protect your right to get it.** When you become eligible for COBRA, you may also become eligible for other coverage options that may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage.

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."

Sometimes, filing a proceeding in bankruptcy under title 11 of the United States Code can be a qualifying event. If a proceeding in bankruptcy is filed with respect to State of Maine and that bankruptcy results in the loss of coverage of any retired employee covered under the Plan, the retired employee will become a qualified

beneficiary. The retired employee's spouse, surviving spouse, and dependent children will also become qualified beneficiaries if bankruptcy results in the loss of their coverage under the Plan.

### **When is COBRA continuation coverage available?**

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

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

**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 in writing to the Plan Administrator. Any notice you provide must state the name of the plan or plans under which you lost or are losing coverage, the name and address of the employee covered under the plan, the name(s) and address(es) of the qualified beneficiary(ies), and the qualifying event and the date it happened. The Plan Administrator will direct you to provide the appropriate documentation to show proof of the event.**

### **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. If you believe you are eligible for this extension, contact the Plan Administrator.

**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](http://www.healthcare.gov).

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

In general, if you don't enroll in Medicare Part A or B when you are first eligible because you are still employed, after the Medicare initial enrollment period, you have an 8-month special enrollment period<sup>1</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.HealthCare.gov).

### **Keep your Plan informed of address changes**

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

### **Plan contact information**

For additional information regarding your COBRA continuation coverage rights, please contact the Plan Administrator below:

Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez

Executive Director, Office of Employee Health and Wellness and Workers' Compensation

61 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

800-422-4503

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.medicare.gov/basics/get-started-with-medicare/sign-up/when-does-medicare-coverage-start>

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO DESIGNATE PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER AND OF NO OBLIGATION  
FOR PRE-AUTHORIZATION FOR OB/GYN CARE**

State of Maine Employee Health Care Plan generally allows the designation of a primary care provider. You have the right to designate any primary care provider who participates in our network and who is available to accept you or your family members. For information on how to select a primary care provider, and for a list of the participating primary care providers, contact the plan issuer at 844-304-8786.

For children, you may designate a pediatrician as the primary care provider.

You do not need prior authorization from State of Maine Employee Health Care Plan or from any other person (including a primary care provider) in order to obtain access to obstetrical or gynecological care from a health care professional in our network 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. For a list of participating health care professionals who specialize in obstetrics or gynecology, contact the State of Maine Employee Health Care Plan at:

Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez  
Executive Director, Office of Employee Health and Wellness and Workers' Compensation  
800-422-4503

## **WOMEN’S HEALTH AND CANCER RIGHTS NOTICE**

State of Maine Employee Health Care Plan is required by law to provide you with the following notice:

The Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (“WHCRA”) provides certain protections 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 lymphedemas.

The State of Maine Employee Health Care Plan provide(s) medical coverage for mastectomies and the related procedures listed above, subject to the same deductibles and coinsurance applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under this plan. Therefore, the following deductibles and coinsurance apply:

PPO	In-Network	Out-of-Network
Individual Deductible	\$800	\$3,000
Family Deductible	\$1,600	\$6,000
Coinsurance	15%	40%

If you would like more information on WHCRA benefits, please refer to your Summary Plan Description or contact your Plan Administrator at:

Shonna Poulin-Gutierrez

Executive Director, Office of Employee Health and Wellness and Workers' Compensation  
800-422-4503



## **NOTICE FOR EMPLOYER-SPONSORED WELLNESS PROGRAMS**

State of Maine Wellness Program is a voluntary wellness program available to all employees and dependents enrolled on the plan. The program is administered according to federal rules permitting employer-sponsored wellness programs that seek to improve employee health or prevent disease, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA), and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, as applicable, among others.

Details about the wellness program, including criteria and incentives, can be found in the benefits guide.

If you are unable to participate in any of the health-related activities or achieve any of the health outcomes required to earn an incentive, you may be entitled to a reasonable accommodation or an alternative standard. You may request a reasonable accommodation or an alternative standard by contacting Nathan Morse at 207-620-4240 or [Nathan.Morse@maine.gov](mailto:Nathan.Morse@maine.gov).

The information from the Biometric Screening the Health Risk Assessment will be used to provide you with information to help you understand your current health and potential risks, and may also be used to offer you services through the wellness program, such as information about stress reduction, prediabetes and nutrition. A personalized scorecard will be developed so you can learn about your current health status and how to easily link to local resources for support. You also are encouraged to share your results or concerns with your own doctor.

### **Protections from Disclosure of Medical Information**

We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your personally identifiable health information. Although the wellness program and State of Maine may use aggregate information it collects to design a program based on identified health risks in the workplace, the wellness program will never disclose any of your personal information either publicly or to the employer, except as necessary to respond to a request from you for a reasonable accommodation needed to participate in the wellness program, or as expressly permitted by law. Medical information that personally identifies you that is provided in connection with the wellness program will not be provided to your supervisors or managers and may never be used to make decisions regarding your employment.

Your health information will not be sold, exchanged, transferred, or otherwise disclosed except to the extent permitted by law to carry out specific activities related to the wellness program, and you will not be asked or required to waive the confidentiality of your health information as a condition of participating in the wellness program or receiving an incentive. Anyone who receives your information for purposes of providing you services as part of the wellness program will abide by the same confidentiality requirements. The only individual(s) who will receive your personally identifiable health information is (are) you the employee in order to provide you with services under the wellness program.

In addition, all medical information obtained through the wellness program will be maintained separate from your personnel records, information stored electronically will be encrypted, and no information you provide as part of the wellness program will be used in making any employment decision. Appropriate precautions will be taken to avoid any data breach, and in the event a data breach occurs involving information you provide in connection with the wellness program, we will notify you immediately.

You may not be discriminated against in employment because of the medical information you provide as part of participating in the wellness program, nor may you be subjected to retaliation if you choose not to participate.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this notice, or about protections against discrimination and retaliation, please contact Nathan Morse at 207-620-4240 or [Nathan.Morse@maine.gov](mailto:Nathan.Morse@maine.gov).