

2024

Annual Notices

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Medicare Part D Notice

Important Notice from Kitsap County 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 Kitsap County 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. Kitsap County has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Kitsap County Health and Welfare Plan (Aetna Classic, Aetna Value, Aetna HDHP/HSA, Aetna Deputy, Kaiser Classic, Kaiser Value, Kaiser HDHP/HSA, Kaiser Deputy) 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 15th to December 7th.

However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan.

What Happens To Your Current Coverage If You Decide to Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your Kitsap County coverage will not be affected. See below for more information about what happens to your current coverage if you join a Medicare drug plan.

Since the existing prescription drug coverage under Kitsap County Health and Welfare Plan is creditable (e.g., as good as Medicare coverage), you can retain your existing prescription drug coverage and choose not to enroll in a Part D plan; or you can enroll in a Part D plan as a supplement to, or in lieu of, your existing prescription drug coverage.

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

When Will You Pay A Higher Premium (Penalty) To Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

You should also know that if you drop or lose your current coverage with Kitsap County 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. 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 Kitsap County 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 [medicare.gov](https://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 800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227). TTY users should call 877-486-2048.

If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at [socialsecurity.gov](https://www.socialsecurity.gov), or call them at 800-772-1213 (TTY 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: 01/01/2024
Name of Entity/Sender: Kitsap County
Contact-Position/Office: Human Resources
Address: 507 Austin Ave, Port Orchard, WA 98366
Phone Number: (360) 337-7185

Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act

If you have had or are going to have a mastectomy, you may be entitled to certain benefits under the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA). For individuals receiving mastectomy-related benefits, coverage will be provided in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient, for:

- All stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy was performed;
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance;
- Prostheses; and
- Treatment of physical complications of the mastectomy, including lymphedema.

These benefits will be provided subject to the same deductibles and coinsurance applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under this plan. Therefore, the following deductibles and coinsurance apply which are outlined in the benefit guide and plan summaries provided during your enrollment period. If you would like more information on WHCRA benefits, call your plan administrator 360.337.7185.

Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection 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 vaginal delivery, or less than 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 discharging 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). If you would like more information on maternity benefits, call your plan administrator at 360.337.7185.

HIPAA Notice of Special Enrollment Rights

If you decline enrollment in Kitsap County's health plan for you or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance or group health plan coverage, you or your dependents may be able to enroll in Kitsap County's health plan without waiting for the next open enrollment period if you:

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

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

Note: If your dependent becomes eligible for a special enrollment right, you may add the dependent to your current coverage or change to another health plan. Any other currently covered dependents may also switch to the new plan in which you enroll.

Availability of Privacy Practices Notice

We maintain the HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices for Kitsap County describing how health information about you may be used and disclosed. You may obtain a copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices by contacting Human Resources.

Notice of Choice of Providers

The Kitsap County Health and Welfare 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 Human Resources.

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

You do not need prior authorization from Kitsap County 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 Human Resources.

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 Kitsap County 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 that may receive your personally identifiable health information is a health coach 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 Human Resources.

Premium Assistance under Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

If you or your children are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP and you’re eligible for health coverage from your employer, your state may have a premium assistance program that can help pay for coverage, using funds from their Medicaid or CHIP programs. If you or your children aren’t eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, you won’t be eligible for these premium assistance programs but you may be able to buy individual insurance coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace. For more information, visit www.healthcare.gov.

If you or your dependents are already enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP and you live in a State listed below, contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office to find out if premium assistance is available.

If you or your dependents are NOT currently enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, and you think you or any of your dependents might be eligible for either of these programs, contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office or dial **1-877-KIDS NOW** or www.insurekidsnow.gov to find out how to apply. If you qualify, ask your state if it has a program that might help you pay the premiums for an employer-sponsored plan.

If you or your dependents are eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or CHIP, as well as eligible under your employer plan, your employer must allow you to enroll in your employer plan if you aren’t already enrolled. This is called a “special enrollment” opportunity, and **you must request coverage within 60 days of being determined eligible for premium assistance**. If you have questions about enrolling in your employer plan, contact the Department of Labor at www.askebsa.dol.gov or call **1-866-444-EBSA (3272)**.

If you live in one of the following states, you may be eligible for assistance paying your employer health plan premiums. The following list of states is current as of January 31, 2024. Contact your State for more information on eligibility—

ALABAMA – Medicaid Website: http://myalhipp.com/ Phone: 1-855-692-5447
ALASKA – Medicaid The AK Health Insurance Premium Payment Program Website: http://myakhipp.com/ Phone: 1-866-251-4861 Email: CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com Medicaid Eligibility: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/medicaid/default.aspx
ARKANSAS – Medicaid Website: http://myarhipp.com/ Phone: 1-855-MyARHIPP (855-692-7447)
CALIFORNIA – Medicaid Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program http://dhcs.ca.gov/hipp Phone: 916-445-8322 Fax: 916-440-5676 Email: hipp@dhcs.ca.gov
COLORADO – Health First Colorado (Colorado’s Medicaid Program) & Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) Health First Colorado Website: https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/ Health First Colorado Member Contact Center: 1-800-221-3943 State Relay 711 CHP+: https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/child-health-plan-plus CHP+ Customer Service: 1-800-359-1991 State Relay 711 Health Insurance Buy-In Program (HIBI): https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/health-insurance-buy-program HIBI Customer Service: 1-855-692-6442
FLORIDA – Medicaid Website: https://www.flmedicaidprecovery.com/flmedicaidprecovery.com/hipp/index.html Phone: 1-877-357-3268

GEORGIA – Medicaid

GA HIPP Website: <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp>

Phone: 678-564-1162, press 1

GA CHIPRA Website: <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/childrens-health-insurance-program-reauthorization-act-2009-chipra> | Phone: 678-564-1162, press 2

INDIANA – Medicaid

Healthy Indiana Plan for low-income adults 19-64 Website: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/hip/> | Phone: 1-877-438-4479

All other Medicaid Website: <https://www.in.gov/medicaid/> | Phone 1-800-457-4584

IOWA – Medicaid and CHIP (Hawki)

Medicaid Website: <https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members> | Medicaid Phone: 1-800-338-8366

Hawki Website: <http://dhs.iowa.gov/Hawki> | Hawki Phone: 1-800-257-8563

HIPP Website: <https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/medicaid-a-to-z/hipp> | HIPP Phone: 1-888-346-9562

KANSAS – Medicaid

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

KENTUCKY – Medicaid

Kentucky Integrated Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (KI-HIPP)

Website: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.aspx> | Phone: 1-855-459-6328

Email: KIHIPP.PROGRAM@ky.gov | KCHIP Website: <https://kidshealth.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx>

Phone: 1-877-524-4718 | Kentucky Medicaid Website: <https://chfs.ky.gov>

LOUISIANA – Medicaid

Website: www.medicicaid.la.gov or www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp

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

MAINE – Medicaid

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

Phone: 1-800-442-6003 | TTY: Maine relay 711

Private Health Insurance Premium Webpage: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms>

Phone: 800-977-6740 | TTY: Maine relay 711

MASSACHUSETTS – Medicaid and CHIP

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/masshealth/pa> | Phone: 1-800-862-4840 | TTY: 617-886-8102

MINNESOTA – Medicaid

Website: <https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/children-and-families/health-care/health-care-programs/programs-and-services/other-insurance.jsp> | Phone: 1-800-657-3739

MISSOURI – Medicaid

Website: <http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm> | Phone: 573-751-2005

MONTANA – Medicaid

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

Phone: 1-800-694-3084 | email: HSHIPPProgram@mt.gov

NEBRASKA – Medicaid

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

Phone: 1-855-632-7633 | Lincoln: 402-473-7000 | Omaha: 402-595-1178

NEVADA – Medicaid

Medicaid Website: <http://dhcnp.nv.gov> | Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Medicaid

Website: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program>

Phone: 603-271-5218 | Toll free number for the HIPP program: 1-800-852-3345, ext. 5218

NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP
Medicaid Website: http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/ Phone: 609-631-2392 CHIP Website: http://www.nifamilycare.org/index.html CHIP Phone: 1-800-701-0710
NEW YORK – Medicaid
Website: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/ Phone: 1-800-541-2831
NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid
Website: https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/ Phone: 919-855-4100
NORTH DAKOTA – Medicaid
Website: http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/medicalserv/medicaid/ Phone: 1-844-854-4825
OKLAHOMA – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: http://www.insureoklahoma.org Phone: 1-888-365-3742
OREGON – Medicaid
Website: http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx or http://www.oregonhealthcare.gov/index-es.html Phone: 1-800-699-9075
PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid
Website: https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/HIPP-Program.aspx Phone: 1-800-692-7462
RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/ Phone: 1-855-697-4347 or 401-462-0311 (Direct Rlte Share Line)
SOUTH CAROLINA – Medicaid
Website: https://www.scdhhs.gov Phone: 1-888-549-0820
SOUTH DAKOTA – Medicaid
Website: http://dss.sd.gov Phone: 1-888-828-0059
TEXAS – Medicaid
Website: http://gethipptexas.com/ Phone: 1-800-440-0493
UTAH – Medicaid and CHIP
Medicaid Website: https://medicaid.utah.gov/ CHIP Website: http://health.utah.gov/chip Phone: 1-877-543-7669
VERMONT – Medicaid
Website: http://www.greenmountaincare.org/ Phone: 1-800-250-8427
VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: https://www.coverva.org/en/famis-select or https://www.coverva.org/en/hipp Medicaid Phone: 1-800-432-5924 CHIP Phone: 1-800-432-5924
WASHINGTON – Medicaid
Website: https://www.hca.wa.gov/ Phone: 1-800-562-3022
WEST VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: https://dhr.wv.gov/bms/ or http://mywvhipp.com/ Medicaid Phone: 304-558-1700 CHIP Toll-free phone: 1-855-MyWVHIPP (1-855-699-8447)
WISCONSIN – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm Phone: 1-800-362-3002
WYOMING – Medicaid
Website: https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/programs-and-eligibility/ Phone: 1-800-251-1269

To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since January 31, 2024, or for more information on special enrollment rights, contact either:

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

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

Notice of Certain Deadline Extensions and Summary of Material Modifications

Prepared for Kitsap County Plan Participants

Effective 01/01/23

This document provides notice of the potential expiration of the deadline relief that began on March 1, 2020 and an explanation of how that expiration will affect certain deadlines tolled under prior guidance applicable to ERISA plans. Specifically deadlines cannot be tolled for longer than one-year. **Whether deadlines are tolled or resume will depend on the specific date you were required to take action or provide notice to the plan.** This is a Summary of Material Modifications (“Summary”) to the extent those extensions applied to ERISA benefits under the Kitsap County Plan (“the Plan”). You should take the time to read this Summary carefully and keep it with the Summary Plan Description (“SPD”) document that was previously provided to you. If you need another copy of the SPD or if you have any questions regarding these changes to the Plan, please contact Human Resources.

End of Relief Period Extending Certain Deadlines in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis will Depend on the Date an Individual Action Would Have been Required

On April 28, 2020, Multi-Agency guidance extended certain deadlines that apply to group health plans that fall within the COVID-19 outbreak period beginning **March 1, 2020**. Those deadlines included and were limited to the following:

- The 30-day period to request special enrollment under HIPAA (or 60-day period as applicable to CHIP enrollment requests);
 - employees, spouses, and new dependents are allowed to enroll upon marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption;
 - employees and dependents are allowed to enroll if they had declined coverage due to other health coverage and then lose eligibility or lose all employer contributions towards active coverage;
 - employees and their dependents are allowed to enroll upon loss of coverage under a state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or Medicaid or who are eligible to receive premium assistance under those programs;
- The 60-day election period for COBRA continuation coverage;
- The deadline for making COBRA premium payments;
- The 60-day deadline for individuals to notify a plan of a COBRA qualifying event or determination of disability;
- The deadline for individuals to file an ERISA benefit claim under the plan’s claims procedure (including a H-FSA run out period deadline that ends during the outbreak period); or
- The deadline for claimants to file an appeal of an adverse benefit determination, a request for an external review, and to file information related to a request for external review for an ERISA plan.

The period that these deadlines can be tolled is limited to one year.

Individual timeframes listed above that are subject to deadline relief will have the applicable deadlines disregarded only until the earlier of: (a) 1 year from the date they were first eligible for relief, or (b) 60 days after the announced end of the National Emergency (the end of the Outbreak Period). On those individualized applicable dates, the timeframes for employees/participants with periods that were previously tolled will resume.

Examples and Explanations:

If a qualified beneficiary would have been required to make a COBRA election by June 1, 2022, the Notice delays that election requirement until the earlier of 1 year from that date (May 31, 2024) or the end of the Outbreak Period, with the possibility of an additional 60-day extension.

If an individual experienced the birth of a child in February 2021 and the National Emergency was declared over May 11, 2024, the employee would have 60 days from the end of the National Emergency plus 30 days under HIPAA to give notice of the birth to request enrollment from the plan, August 9, 2024.

Again, if you have any questions regarding these changes to the Plan or your specific circumstances, please contact Human Resources.

ACA Disclaimer

This offer of coverage may disqualify you from receiving government subsidies for an Exchange plan even if you choose not to enroll. To be subsidy eligible you would have to establish that this offer is unaffordable for you, meaning that the required contribution for employee only coverage under our base plan exceeds 8.39% in 2024 of your modified adjusted household income.



Rev. 10/27/23