

## REQUIRED NOTICES

### IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE COUNTY OF SONOMA ABOUT

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with the County of Sonoma 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. County of Sonoma has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the County offered plans are, 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 current County coverage will not be affected. For further information on how your coverage will be affected, please contact your benefit office or CareCounsel at the number below.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current County of Sonoma coverage, be aware that you and your dependents may not 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 the County of Sonoma 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 the County of Sonoma 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: March 23, 2015  
Name of Entity/Sender: County of Sonoma  
Contact—Position/Office: Human Resources Benefits Unit  
Address: 575 Administration Dr., Suite 117C, Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
Phone Number: 707-565-2900 or [Benefits@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Benefits@sonoma-county.org)

**Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP): 800-434-0222**  
**Healthcare Advocacy, CareCounsel: 1-888-227-3334**

CMS Form 10182-CC  
Updated April 1, 2011

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0938-0990. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 8 hours per response initially, 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.

---

---

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

The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA) was signed into law on October 21, 1998. The WHCRA which amends ERISA, requires group health plans that provide coverage for mastectomies to also provide coverage for reconstructive surgery and prostheses following mastectomies.

Because your group health plan offers coverage for mastectomies, WHCRA applies to your plan. The law mandates that a participant who is receiving benefits, on or after the law's effective date, for a covered mastectomy and who elects breast reconstruction in connection with the mastectomy will also receive coverage for:

1. Reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy has been performed
2. Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance; and
3. Prosthesis and treatment of physical complications of all stages of mastectomy, including Lymphedemas.

This coverage will be provided in consultation with the patient and the patient’s attending physician and will be subject to the same annual deductible, coinsurance and/or copayment provisions otherwise applicable under the policy/plan.

## 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 January 31, 2015. Contact your State for more information on eligibility –**

ALABAMA – Medicaid	GEORGIA – Medicaid
Website: <a href="http://www.myalhipp.com">www.myalhipp.com</a> Phone: 1-855-692-5447	Website: <a href="http://dch.georgia.gov/">http://dch.georgia.gov/</a> - Click on Programs, then Medicaid, then Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Phone: 1-800-869-1150

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ALASKA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://health.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/programs/medicaid/">http://health.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/programs/medicaid/</a>  Phone (Outside of Anchorage): 1-888-318-8890  Phone (Anchorage): 907-269-6529</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INDIANA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.in.gov/fssa">http://www.in.gov/fssa</a>  Phone: 1-800-889-9949</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COLORADO – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Medicaid Website: <a href="http://www.colorado.gov/hcpf">http://www.colorado.gov/hcpf</a>  Medicaid Customer Contact Center: 1-800-221-3943</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IOWA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/hipp/">www.dhs.state.ia.us/hipp/</a>  Phone: 1-888-346-9562</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FLORIDA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="https://www.flmedicaidprecovery.com/">https://www.flmedicaidprecovery.com/</a>  Phone: 1-877-357-3268</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>KANSAS – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.kdheks.gov/hcf/">http://www.kdheks.gov/hcf/</a>  Phone: 1-800-792-4884</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>KENTUCKY – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://chfs.ky.gov/dms/default.htm">http://chfs.ky.gov/dms/default.htm</a>  Phone: 1-800-635-2570</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEW HAMPSHIRE – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oii/documents/hippapp.pdf">http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oii/documents/hippapp.pdf</a>  Phone: 603-271-5218</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LOUISIANA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.lahipp.dhh.louisiana.gov">http://www.lahipp.dhh.louisiana.gov</a>  Phone: 1-888-695-2447</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP</b></p> <p>Medicaid Website: <a href="http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/">http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/</a>  Medicaid Phone: 609-631-2392  CHIP Website: <a href="http://www.njfamilycare.org/index.html">http://www.njfamilycare.org/index.html</a>  CHIP Phone: 1-800-701-0710</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MAINE – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofl/public-assistance/index.html">http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofl/public-assistance/index.html</a>  Phone: 1-800-977-6740  TTY 1-800-977-6741</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEW YORK – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.nyhealth.gov/health_care/medicaid/">http://www.nyhealth.gov/health_care/medicaid/</a>  Phone: 1-800-541-2831</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MASSACHUSETTS – Medicaid and CHIP</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.mass.gov/MassHealth">http://www.mass.gov/MassHealth</a>  Phone: 1-800-462-1120</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma">http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma</a>  Phone: 919-855-4100</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MINNESOTA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/id_006254">http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/id_006254</a>  Click on Health Care, then Medical Assistance  Phone: 1-800-657-3739</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NORTH DAKOTA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website:  <a href="http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/medicalserv/medicaid/">http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/medicalserv/medicaid/</a>  Phone: 1-800-755-2604</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MISSOURI – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm">http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm</a>  Phone: 573-751-2005</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OKLAHOMA – Medicaid and CHIP</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.insureoklahoma.org">http://www.insureoklahoma.org</a>  Phone: 1-888-365-3742</p>

<b>MONTANA – Medicaid</b>	<b>OREGON – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://medicaid.mt.gov/member">http://medicaid.mt.gov/member</a> Phone: 1-800-694-3084	Website: <a href="http://www.oregonhealthykids.gov">http://www.oregonhealthykids.gov</a> <a href="http://www.hijossaludablesoregon.gov">http://www.hijossaludablesoregon.gov</a> Phone: 1-800-699-9075
<b>NEBRASKA – Medicaid</b>	<b>PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov">www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov</a> Phone: 1-855-632-7633	Website: <a href="http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/hipp">http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/hipp</a> Phone: 1-800-692-7462
<b>NEVADA – Medicaid</b>	<b>RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid</b>
Medicaid Website: <a href="http://dwss.nv.gov/">http://dwss.nv.gov/</a> Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900	Website: <a href="http://www.ohhs.ri.gov">www.ohhs.ri.gov</a> Phone: 401-462-5300
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA – Medicaid</b>	<b>VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.scdhhs.gov">http://www.scdhhs.gov</a> Phone: 1-888-549-0820	Medicaid Website: <a href="http://www.coverva.org/programs_premium_assistance.cfm">http://www.coverva.org/programs_premium_assistance.cfm</a> Medicaid Phone: 1-800-432-5924 CHIP Website: <a href="http://www.coverva.org/programs_premium_assistance.cfm">http://www.coverva.org/programs_premium_assistance.cfm</a> CHIP Phone: 1-855-242-8282
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA - Medicaid</b>	<b>WASHINGTON – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://dss.sd.gov">http://dss.sd.gov</a> Phone: 1-888-828-0059	Website: <a href="http://www.hca.wa.gov/medicaid/premiumpymt/pages/index.aspx">http://www.hca.wa.gov/medicaid/premiumpymt/pages/index.aspx</a> Phone: 1-800-562-3022 ext. 15473
<b>TEXAS – Medicaid</b>	<b>WEST VIRGINIA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="https://www.gethipptexas.com/">https://www.gethipptexas.com/</a> Phone: 1-800-440-0493	Website: <a href="http://www.dhr.wv.gov/bms/">www.dhr.wv.gov/bms/</a> Phone: 1-877-598-5820, HMS Third Party Liability
<b>UTAH – Medicaid and CHIP</b>	<b>WISCONSIN – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Website: Medicaid: <a href="http://health.utah.gov/medicaid">http://health.utah.gov/medicaid</a> CHIP: <a href="http://health.utah.gov/chip">http://health.utah.gov/chip</a> Phone: 1-866-435-7414	Website: <a href="https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm">https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm</a> Phone: 1-800-362-3002
<b>VERMONT– Medicaid</b>	<b>WYOMING – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.greenmountaincare.org/">http://www.greenmountaincare.org/</a> Phone: 1-800-250-8427	Website: <a href="http://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/equalitycare">http://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/equalitycare</a> Phone: 307-777-7531

To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since January 31, 2015, or for more information on special enrollment rights, contact either:

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

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

OMB Control Number 1210-0137 (expires 10/31/2016)

---

---

## NEWBORNS' AND MOTHERS' HEALTH PROTECTION ACT NOTICE

**Hospital Length of Stay for Childbirth:** Under federal law, group health plans, like this Plan, generally may not restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or the newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, the Plan may pay for a shorter stay if the attending Physician (e.g., Physician, or Health Care Practitioner), after consultation with the mother, discharges the mother or newborn earlier.

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

In addition, the Plan may not, under federal law, require that a Physician or other Health Care Practitioner obtain authorization for prescribing a length of stay of up to 48 hours (or 96 hours). However, to use certain providers or facilities, or to reduce your out-of-pocket costs, you may be required to obtain precertification. For information on precertification for a length of stay longer than 48 hours for vaginal birth or 96 hours for C-section, contact your plan provider to precertify the extended stay. If you have questions about this Notice, contact HR Benefits Unit at (707) 565-2900 or [benefits@sonoma-county.org](mailto:benefits@sonoma-county.org).

---

---

## SPECIAL ENROLLMENT EVENT:

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 enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage (or if your employer stops contributing toward your or your dependents' other coverage). However, you must request enrollment within 31 days after your or your dependents' other coverage ends (or after the employer stops contributing towards the other coverage).

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 31 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

You and your dependents may also enroll in this plan if you (or your dependents):

- have coverage through Medicaid or a State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and you (or your dependents) lose eligibility for that coverage. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after the Medicaid or CHIP coverage ends.

- become eligible for a premium assistance program through Medicaid or CHIP. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after you (or your dependents) are determined to be eligible for such assistance.

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact HR Benefits Unit at (707) 565-2900 or [benefits@sonoma-county.org](mailto:benefits@sonoma-county.org).

---

---

### **IMPORTANT REMINDER TO PROVIDE THE PLAN WITH THE TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (TIN) OR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (SSN) OF EACH ENROLLEE IN A HEALTH PLAN**

Employers are required by law to collect the taxpayer identification number (TIN) or social security number (SSN) of each medical plan participant and provide that number on reports that will be provided to the IRS each year. Employers are required to make at least two consecutive attempts to gather missing TINs/SSNs.

If a dependent does not yet have a social security number, you can go to this website to complete a form to request a SSN: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/online/ss-5.pdf>. Applying for a social security number is FREE.

If you have not yet provided the social security number (or other TIN) for each of your dependents that you have enrolled in the health plan, please contact HR Benefits Unit at (707) 565-2900 or [benefits@sonoma-county.org](mailto:benefits@sonoma-county.org).

---

---

### **PRIVACY NOTICE REMINDER**

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 requires health plans to comply with privacy rules. These rules are intended to protect your personal health information from being inappropriately used and disclosed. The rules also give you additional rights concerning control of your own healthcare information.

This Plan's HIPAA Privacy Notice explains how the group health plan uses and discloses your personal health information. You are provided a copy of this Notice when you enroll in the Plan. You can get another copy of this Notice from the County of Sonoma Privacy Officer at (707) 565-4999 or [www.sonoma-county.org/privacy/privacy.html](http://www.sonoma-county.org/privacy/privacy.html).

---

---



## **CAUTION: IF YOU DECLINE MEDICAL PLAN COVERAGE OFFERED THROUGH COUNTY OF SONOMA**

If you are in a benefits-eligible position and choose not to be covered by one of County of Sonoma’s medical plan options, remember that you must maintain medical plan coverage elsewhere or you can purchase health insurance through a Marketplace ([www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)), typically at the Marketplace annual enrollment in the fall each year.

**Americans without medical plan coverage could have to pay a penalty when they file their personal income taxes.** Visit the Health Insurance Marketplace for detailed information on individual shared responsibility payment penalty.

If you choose to not be covered by a medical plan sponsored by County of Sonoma at this enrollment time, your next opportunity to enroll for County of Sonoma’s medical plan coverage is at the next annual open enrollment time, unless you have a mid-year change event that allows you to add coverage in the middle of County of Sonoma’s plan year.



## **PATIENT PROTECTION RIGHTS OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT**

The medical plans offered by this employer do not require the selection or designation of a primary care provider (PCP). You have the ability to visit any network or non-network health care provider; however, payment by the Plan may be less for the use of a non-network provider.

You also do not need prior authorization from the 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 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 your plan.