



# Employee Benefits Guide

January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024



# What's Inside

## Summary Plan Description

Please note this guide is designed to provide an overview of the coverages available. Your employer reserves the right to amend or change benefit offerings at any time. This guide is not a Summary Plan Description (SPD) nor a contract or guarantee of benefits coverage. Official plan and insurance documents govern your rights and benefits, including covered benefits, exclusions and limitations. If any discrepancy exists between this guide and the official documents, the official documents will prevail. If you would like a printed copy of the materials, please contact the Benefits Office.

Please contact the Benefits Office if you have any questions regarding your benefits plan.

## Enrollment Changes

Changes to your enrollment may be made annually during open enrollment each year. Mid-year changes may be made for the following qualifying events such as marriage/divorce, birth/adoption, death, change in job status of yourself or your spouse, and or change in Medicaid/CHIP eligibility.

However, all changes must be made within 31 days of your qualifying event.

**31 = the number of days from the date of a qualifying life event that you have to notify HR of the event**

The *only* exception is Medicaid/CHIP, which gives you up to 60 days to make a change.

You must notify the Benefits Office immediately when you experience a qualifying event.

Review your benefit options detailed in this booklet and at [mychattanoogaenefits.com](http://mychattanoogaenefits.com). This site is available 24/7 for employees to reference benefit option details. Please contact Human Resources if you have any questions regarding your benefits plan.

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## Highlights

- **NEW!** If you want to enroll in the Unum Worksite benefits you can now enroll on the Oracle System. The Worksite benefits offered are Accident, Hospital Indemnity, and Critical Illness.
- If you want to elect a Flexible Spending Account for the 2024 plan year, you **MUST** enroll in the Oracle Cloud System accessed through [landing.chattanooga.gov](http://landing.chattanooga.gov). Your election from last year will NOT carryover.
- To enroll in Unum Whole Life Insurance, you will need to call Unum directly at 1-866-643-9404 during the open enrollment dates. A representative will be available from 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM EST to assist you with the process.

**If you (and/or your dependents) have Medicare or will become eligible for Medicare in the next 12 months, a Federal law gives you more choices about your prescription drug coverage. Please see Annual Notices section for more details.**

# Enrollment Checklist

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## Before Enrollment

Take the time to learn more about all of the benefit options that are available to you. The City of Chattanooga provides you with tools, meetings and other resources to help you make your benefit decisions.

- Review the 2024 Benefits Guide carefully as you consider your plan choices.
- Review the Plan summaries for the plans you are enrolling in as these provide a more detailed overview of the plan.
- You may view the online benefits presentation at [www.mychattanoogaabenefits.com](http://www.mychattanoogaabenefits.com).
- Decide if you want to enroll in a Flexible Spending Account (Health care and/or Dependent Day Care) or High Deductible Health Plan with HSA.
- **Remember: you must actively enroll in the FSA each year.**

## During Enrollment - Enroll between November 15 and December 6, 2023.

*Unum Representatives will be available via telephone from 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM ET November 15 – December 6 for questions about the Unum benefit plans. Call 1-866-643-9404 to speak to an enrollment representative.*

If you are currently enrolled in medical benefits and you don't make a new medical plan election, your current coverage will roll over.

- **NEW!** You may enroll in Unum Worksite benefits (accident insurance, hospital indemnity insurance, and critical illness insurance) through the Oracle system.
- Complete your enrollment using the Oracle Cloud System, **save or print a copy of your confirmation statement**, review it for accuracy and retain it.

*This is your record of enrollment. The Benefits Department does not mail confirmations to your home address.*

- Make sure you have designated a beneficiary assigned to the life benefits. Make any necessary updates to ensure the Oracle system reflects the correct information.
- Save your Oracle password in a secure place so you can log back into your account throughout the year.
- Onsite representatives will be available for online enrollment help at the WellAdvantage Center (620 E. 11th Street, Chattanooga, TN 37403), on November 27-30 / December 1 & 4, 2023.

## After Enrollment

- **Verify your 2024 elections.** For paychecks after January 1st, check your payroll deductions.
- **If you notice any errors, notify the HR Benefits Department immediately.** Most elections cannot be changed after Open Enrollment except within 31 days of a qualifying event change.



# Things to Know

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The choices you make during open enrollment will take effect on January 1, 2024 and remain in effect until December 31, 2024. Only qualifying life events will allow you to make a change before that date (see Mid-Year Life Changes listed below for more information).

## Remember!

Even if you are not making any benefit changes, you must make certain elections annually.

- The Flexible Spending Account (FSA) requires an annual election for both Health and Dependent Care.
- You may participate in a Flexible Spending Account even if you do not make medical plan elections.
- You may participate in the dependent care FSA to pay for daycare or elder care expenses, regardless of your health care election.
- **NEW!** Maintain your Unum Worksite benefits through the Oracle system.

## Benefit Eligibility - Dependents

- Your legal spouse
- Your or your spouse's: (1) natural child; (2) legally adopted child (including children placed for the purpose of adoption); (3) step-child(ren); or (4) children for whom the employee or employee's spouse is the legal guardian; who are less than 26 years old; or
- Your child or your spouse's child for whom a Qualified Medical Child Support Order has been issued; or
- Your Incapacitated Child or your spouse's Incapacitated Child

## Mid-Year Life Changes - Qualifying Events

Each year you have the opportunity to make changes to your benefits package during an Annual Open Enrollment. With the exception of certain qualifying events, open enrollment is the only time benefit changes may be made. A qualifying event is a change in your personal life that may impact your eligibility or dependent's eligibility for benefits. Examples of a Qualifying event are listed below as defined by the IRS:

- Change in legal marital status, including marriage, death of a spouse, divorce, legal separation and annulment.
- A change in the number of dependents, including birth, death, adoption, and placement for adoption.
- A change in employment status.
- A dependent ceasing to satisfy eligibility requirements for coverage due to attainment of age 26, change in marital status, or other similar circumstances.

**\*If you are not sure whether your change is a qualifying event, please ask!\***

*It is the employee's responsibility to notify the Benefits Office at (423) 643-7220 or [benefits@chattanooga.gov](mailto:benefits@chattanooga.gov) of any life change that results in a gain or loss of dependent eligibility within **31 days** of the date of the event. The employee may be responsible for any costs associated with misrepresentation.*

## Documentation

In order to cover your dependents on The City of Chattanooga benefit plans, you must provide the following documentation before the coverage effective date:

- Marriage Certificate or 1040 for the addition of a spouse.
- Birth certificate for the addition of a child or children.
- Social security cards must be submitted for **all dependents that will be covered under medical, dental and vision benefits**.

Most documents can be uploaded directly into the Oracle Cloud System. For assistance, contact the Benefits Office. Date of birth and the social security number are needed for all dependents who will be covered under the medical, dental and vision benefits.

# Medical Benefits



The City of Chattanooga operates a self-funded medical insurance plan. **BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee (BCBST)** is the administrator of the City’s insurance plan.

The Plan has two options – a Preferred Provider Organization Plan (PPO) and a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP). The PPO plan has copays, a deductible and coinsurance after the deductible has been met. The HDHP has a deductible and coinsurance after the deductible has been met. A Health Savings Account (HSA) is used with the HDHP to set aside savings for future medical expenses.

The Plan includes two network options defined by BCBST – Network S and Network P. **Premiums are lower in Network S.** In the Chattanooga area, both networks include almost all the available providers. Network S excludes the Parkridge Hospital system facilities; however, most Parkridge providers are in-network. In Tennessee, *both networks* include the Vanderbilt and St. Thomas hospital systems.

To find an in-network provider near you, go to [www.bcbst.com](http://www.bcbst.com) and click on “Find A Doctor.” You can sort by Network P or S to see which of your providers participate in each network. You can also consult either the online directory or the BlueCross BlueShield of TN Customer Service department at 1-800-565-9140 to confirm that your provider participates in the network.

Monthly Premiums*	Network S		Network P	
	PPO	HDHP	PPO	HDHP
Employee Only	\$106.20	\$38.82	\$129.62	\$48.34
Employee + Child(ren)	\$196.06	\$77.62	\$239.20	\$96.76
Employee + Spouse	\$227.96	\$87.86	\$278.56	\$109.44
Employee + Family	\$324.56	\$129.26	\$395.94	\$161.08

*\*If either you or your covered spouse use tobacco products, as defined by the policy, we will add an additional \$15 per month to your rate. This applies to both Network S and Network P.*

## Terms to Remember

**Copay (Copayment)** – The set fee you have to pay “out-of-pocket” for certain services, such as a doctor’s office visit or prescription drug.

**Deductible** – The amount you pay “out-of-pocket” before the health plan will start to pay its share of covered expenses.

**Coinsurance** – The percentage of total costs that you pay “out-of-pocket” for covered expenses after you meet the deductible.

**Out-of-Pocket Maximum (OOPM)** – The maximum amount an individual or family will pay (in addition to premiums) for covered services during a plan year. This amount includes all money paid for eligible expenses toward the deductible, coinsurance and copays.

**Network** – The doctors, pharmacists and/or other health care providers who makeup the plan’s preferred providers. When you use in-network providers, you pay less because they have agreed to pre-negotiated pricing. Also called in-network.

**Preventive Care Services** – Health care services you receive to help you stay healthy (rather than when you are sick or injured). Preventive care services include annual physicals, wellness screenings and well-baby care.

Plan Options	
PPO - P or S Network	HDHP - P or S Network
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher Premium</li> <li>Copays for select services</li> <li>Deductible: \$1,000 for single or \$2,000 for family. The plan pays after reaching the deductible.</li> <li>100% Preventive coverage</li> <li>Not eligible for HSA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower Premium</li> <li>HSA Eligible</li> <li>Deductible: \$2,000 for single or \$4,000 for family. The plan pays after reaching the deductible.</li> <li>100% Preventive coverage</li> </ul>

# Medical Benefits Chart

Benefit Plan Features	PPO In-Network	High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) In-Network*
<b>Preventive Care</b> (See full list)	100% Coverage	100% Coverage
<b>Annual Deductible</b> Individual / Family	\$1,000 / \$2,000	\$2,000 / \$4,000
<b>Annual Out-of-Pocket Max</b> Individual / Family	\$3,200 / \$6,400	\$4,000 / \$8,000
<b>Non-Network Benefits</b> (Non-Network benefits are available, however, your share will increase)	2x In-Network Deductible and Out-of-Pocket Max Coinsurance will increase to 40%	
<b>Covered Services &amp; Copays</b>		
<b>Well Advantage Clinic</b>	\$0	\$20
<b>Office Visit</b> Primary Care / Specialist	\$30 / \$40	20% after deductible
<b>Telemedicine - Teladoc Health</b>	\$0 Copay	20% after deductible
<b>Urgent Care</b>	\$75	20% after deductible
<b>Routine Diagnostic Lab, X-ray</b> (In office)	No additional copay	20% after deductible
<b>Non-Routine Diagnostic Services</b> (Includes MRI, CT scan, PET scan, nuclear medicine and other technologies)	20% after deductible	20% after deductible
<b>Emergency Services (ER)</b>	\$300	20% after deductible
<b>Ambulance</b>	20% after deductible	20% after deductible
<b>Provider Administered Specialty Drugs</b>	\$100	20% after deductible
<b>Services Received at a Facility</b> (Inpatient, Outpatient, Radiology etc.)	20% after deductible	20% after deductible
<b>Behavioral Health</b>		
<b>Outpatient Behavioral Health</b>	\$30 copay	20% after deductible
<b>Inpatient Behavioral Health</b>	20% after deductible	20% after deductible
<b>Pharmacy - EpiphanyRx - See page 7 for more details.</b>		
<b>WellAdvantage Pharmacy</b> Generic / Preferred / Non-Preferred	\$4 / \$27 / \$52	20% after deductible
<b>WellAdvantage (90-day Supply)</b>	\$10 / \$67.50 / \$130	20% after deductible
<b>Retail</b> Generic / Preferred / Non-Preferred	\$12 / \$42 / \$67	20% after deductible
<b>Mail Order (90-day Supply) Copay</b>	\$30 / \$105 / \$167.50	20% after deductible

*\*If more than one person is covered under the High Deductible Health Plan, the full family deductible must be satisfied before benefits will be paid for the employee or any covered family members.*

# Pharmacy Benefits

The City of Chattanooga offers pharmacy benefits through **EpiphanyRx**. Employees enrolled in The City of Chattanooga medical plan will receive a separate ID card from EpiphanyRx.

EpiphanyRx has the tools to help you and your physician make the best decisions possible for your care. Their network of over 63,000 pharmacies includes all major pharmacy chains. To find a list of covered drugs and preferred pharmacies near you, visit [www.epiphanyrx.com](http://www.epiphanyrx.com). If you need assistance with a prescription, contact EpiphanyRx Member Services.

## Pharmacy Contacts

### EpiphanyRx Member Services:

1-844-820-3260

(Available 24/7)

### Lumicera Specialty Pharmacy:

1-855-847-3553

### Costco Mail Order Pharmacy:

1-800-607-6861

## Copay Assistance

Manufacturer copay assistance programs help insured patients afford expensive (brand and specialty) prescription drugs. You must enroll in the program before your first fill to take advantage of the savings. The EpiphanyRx member services team can help you enroll to take advantage of the savings. Only the amount you paid for the drug can be applied toward your deductible and/or out of pocket maximum. Some programs require annual re-enrollment.

## Lumicera Specialty Pharmacy

If you are taking a specialty medication, Lumicera will be your specialty pharmacy. An EpiphanyRx representative will reach out to you to talk about this transition. If you have questions before, please call member services or Lumicera directly.

## Mail Order Pharmacy - Costco

For maintenance medications, you can use our preferred mail order pharmacy, Costco Home Delivery. Costco offers convenient delivery options and makes refilling your medications easy with the ability to refill by phone, online and text.

You do not have to be a Costco member to take advantage of savings offered by this service. Go to [pharmacy.costco.com](http://pharmacy.costco.com) and click on "Get Started" to create your account. If you need assistance, you can call Costco Mail Order Pharmacy, Monday - Friday from 8:00 am - 10:00 pm ET, or Saturday from 9:00 am - 6:00 pm ET.

## Terms to Remember

**Formulary** – A list of prescription drugs covered by a prescription drug plan or another insurance plan offering prescription drug benefits. Also called a drug list. Drugs are chosen for the formulary depending on their effectiveness, safety and appropriateness.

**Drug Tier** – Drugs are placed in tiers based on the type of drug: generic, preferred brand, non-preferred brand, and specialty. Drugs in lower tiers will cost less and those in higher tiers will cost more.

**Specialty Drug** – A medication used to treat complex and rare diseases that is either a self-administered (non-diabetic) injectable medication; a medication that requires special handling, special administration, or monitoring; or, is a high-cost oral medication.

**Prior Authorization** – Your physician must follow a process to obtain prior approval from your insurance company when administering specific medications, medical devices and medical procedures. Prior authorization must be performed before the insurance company or plan will provide full or partial coverage.

**Medication adherence** – The degree to which patients take their medications as prescribed (eg, twice daily), as well as whether they continue to take a prescribed medication.

# Telemedicine



City of Chattanooga is proud to offer **Teladoc** to all employees and dependents enrolled in the medical plan.\* Teladoc is 24/7/365 access to a doctor by phone when your primary care physician is not available, and you have a condition when you would consider using urgent care.

All Teladoc doctors are practicing primary care physicians, pediatricians, and family medicine physicians who average 15 years experience and are U.S. board-certified and licensed in your state.

Teladoc does not replace your primary care physician. Teladoc should be used when you need immediate care for non-emergent medical issues. It is an affordable, convenient alternative to urgent care and ER visits.

Login to BCBSTN app or visit [bcbst.com/Teladoc](http://bcbst.com/Teladoc) and choose “Talk with a Doctor Now” or call 1-800-TELADOC.

\*Refer to medical benefits chart on page 6 for member cost details.

**Prescriptions.** Teladoc doctors can prescribe short term medication for a wide range of conditions when medically appropriate. Teladoc doctors do not prescribe substances controlled by the DEA, non therapeutic and/or certain other drugs which may be harmful because of their potential abuse. When you go to your pharmacy of choice to pick up the prescription, you may use your health/prescription insurance card to help pay for the medication. You will be responsible for the co-pay based on the type of medication and your plan benefits.

Teladoc is most frequently used to treat conditions like:

- Urgent Care 24/7
- Mental Health Care (including psychology/psychiatry)
- Dermatology
- Neck/Back Care
- Nutrition Counseling
- Tobacco Cessation

# Health Savings Account



If you are enrolled in the High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP), you are eligible to participate in a Health Savings Account (HSA) through **HealthEquity**. An HSA is established to pay for future qualified medical, dental and vision expenses.

You can use your account to pay for qualified medical expenses that are incurred by you or your dependents identified on your Federal tax return. These qualified expenses are defined by the IRS in Publication 502. Your contributions to the HSA are made tax-free by payroll deduction. The funds are deposited into a Health Equity custodial account. When a qualified expense is incurred, you pay with your Health Savings Account debit card or request reimbursement for the expense from HealthEquity. The account is yours to keep, even if you leave employment with the City.

2024 Annual Maximum Contributions to your HSA

Employee:	\$4,150
Family:	\$8,300
<b>Catch-Up Contribution for those 55+:</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>

*To contribute tax-free to an HSA, you must be enrolled in an HDHP and no other coverage. You cannot contribute tax-free to an HSA if:*

1. You are covered by Medicare A, B or D or Tricare
2. Your spouse covers you under a plan that is not an HDHP
3. Your spouse has a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) or an unrestricted Flexible Spending Account

Qualified Medical Expenses for H.S.A		
Qualified medical expenses are designated by the IRS. They include medical, dental, vision and prescription expenses. Refer to the IRS publication 502 for a list of specific examples. Some Highlights Include:		
Prescription Drugs	Insulin	Dental Procedures
Orthodontics	Eye Exams	Eye Surgery
Prescription Eyeglasses and Contact Lenses	Hearing Aids	Hospital Services
Laboratory Fee and X-Rays	Long-Term Care Premiums	



# Flexible Spending Account



**\*\*The Flexible Spending Account rules require that you enroll each year. If you own a Health Savings Account (HSA), you are not eligible to enroll in the City's Health Care FSA.\*\***

The City offers both a Health Care Flexible Spending Account (HC-FSA) and a Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account (DC-FSA) through **TASC** for employees to defer money on a pre-tax basis for use on approved medical and dependent care expenses. You can set money aside from your gross income, pre-tax for expenses that you anticipate for the plan year.

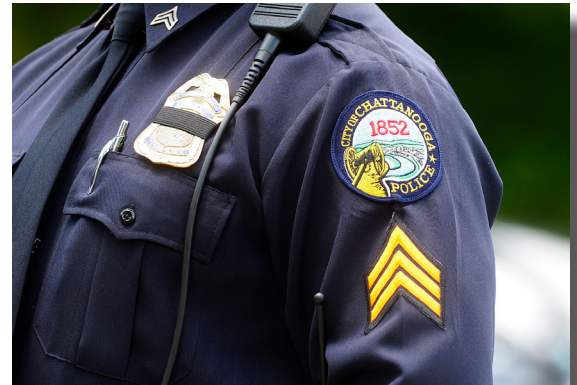
FSA Type	2024 Maximum Contribution
Health Care FSA <i>Savings &amp; spending account for eligible health care related expenses</i>	\$3,200
Dependent Care Account (DCA) <i>For eligible dependent care expenses: day care, after-school programs, adult day care &amp; summer camp</i>	\$5,000/household

**Budget your contributions to match your expected expenses.** At the end of the plan year, any unspent funds up to a \$640 limit are allowed to carryover (amounts unspent above \$640 are lost).

By setting aside money pre-tax into your FSA, you save on taxes and take home more spendable income! Please contact customer service or Human Resources for a list of eligible health care expenses, which include:

- Prescription Drugs/Medications
- Medical/Dental Office Visit Copays
- Eye Exams and Prescription Glasses/Lenses
- Vaccinations
- Certain Over-the-Counter Medications

A complete list can be found at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) in IRS Publications 502 & 503. Please note: insurance premiums are NOT eligible for reimbursement.



**PLEASE NOTE:**

- *This account is not portable. If you leave employment you cannot take your FSA with you.*
- *Remember to obtain itemized receipts to substantiate your claim.*

**You are not required to enroll in a medical plan to enroll in a Flexible Spending Account.** The Flexible Spending Account enrollment is a **one year** election only. You must enroll each year to participate.

A Health Care FSA can help pay for eligible medical expenses for you or your dependents that you claim on your Federal tax return.

# BCBST BlueAccess Features

## BCBSTN App



subscriber).

The BCBSTN app is your mobile BlueAccess. Through this app, you can view the mobile version of your Rewards portal, as well as access many of your subscriber tools like finding a doctor and reviewing your claims (if a BCBST medical

Log in to the BCBSTN app using your BlueAccess username and password. iPhone users can also choose fingerprint Touch ID in the app settings. **Tip:** you can access your digital ID card on the app!

## Healthy Maternity

With a little one on the way, you have a lot on your mind. That's why BCBST created a program that matches you with your very own maternity nurse, who will be there to help however you need.

Once you sign up, you'll get:

- One-on-one support from a maternity nurse
- Weekly emails for each stage of pregnancy and online pregnancy resources
- Immunization help
- Emotional support, during and after your pregnancy
- Help from high-risk maternity nurses or a certified lactation counselor if you need it

Log in or register now at [bcbst.com/myhealthymaternity](https://www.bcbst.com/myhealthymaternity) or call 1-800-818-8581.

## 24/7 Nurseline

Log in or register now at [bcbst.com/member](https://www.bcbst.com/member)

- Choose the "Managing Your Health" tab
- Click on NurseChat

Nurses are here for you every day, around the clock. You can call when you need to talk. Or, if you prefer, chat with a nurse online through NurseChat on BlueAccess.

You can use Nurseline when you have questions about common health concerns - like a rash or a sprained ankle. Or you can talk with a nurse about big health decisions, like having back surgery or other treatments.

Call Nurseline at 1-800-818-8581 or 1-800-848-0298 (TTY).



As a BlueCross member, you get exclusive discounts on health and wellness products and services, including vision and hearing products, through our members only discount program. They're available from big national chains, and your local favorites. These discounts change often, so you can check back frequently, or opt in to get a weekly email full of new discounts for you.

You can see all available discounts by logging in at [www.bcbst.com/memberdiscounts](https://www.bcbst.com/memberdiscounts), or through the BCBSTN app.

# Onsite Health Center Benefits

<p><b>WellAdvantage Health Center</b> (423) 643-7970</p> <p><u>Hours of Operation:</u></p> <p>Monday, Wednesday &amp; Friday: 7:30am - 5:00pm Tuesday &amp; Thursday: 7:30am - 8:00pm 24/7 virtual care available with provider response within 5 minutes</p>	<p><b>WellAdvantage On-Site Pharmacy</b> (423) 266-1586 (423) 266-3314 (fax)</p> <p><u>Hours of Operation:</u></p> <p>Monday-Friday: 8:00am - 6:00pm Closed for Lunch Daily 1:30pm - 2:00pm</p>
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- No or low office visit copays
- Full service, onsite WellAdvantage Pharmacy offering generic, preferred, non-preferred and over-the-counter medications
- Primary care for annual check-ups and physical exams
- Acute care visits for colds, sore throat, flu or other non-emergent concerns
- Health coaching to help with weight loss, physical activity plans or other chronic health conditions
- Onsite, convenient labs
- **NEW!** Increased behavioral health services
- **NEW!** TextCare - 24/7 on demand concierge medicine

*\*\*All personal health information is protected and maintained in a HIPAA compliant manner. Health information will not be shared.\*\**

## Who is Eligible?

**WellAdvantage Health Center and On-Site Pharmacy:** City employees, retirees, and their dependents, who are covered by the City's health insurance, may utilize the health center and pharmacy. Dependents using the health center MUST be 2 years or older to be eligible.

**WellAdvantage Fitness Center:** All full-time employees, elected officials, pension-eligible employees, and retirees, regardless of insurance coverage, may utilize the fitness center. Dependents, who are covered by the City's health insurance, may use the fitness center. Dependents age 13-17 may use the Fitness Center but MUST be accompanied by a parent.

<p><b>WellAdvantage Fitness Center</b> 620 E. 11th Street Chattanooga, TN 37403 (423) 643-7970</p> <p><u>Hours of Operation:</u></p> <p>Monday-Friday (Staffed Hours): 8:00am - 6:00pm 24/7 Access with your Key Card</p>	<p><b>How do I join the Fitness Center?</b></p> <p>If you are eligible to utilize the Fitness Center, you will need to attend a Fitness Center Orientation. In the orientation, you will review your Fitness Center access card, as well as review the available equipment, guidelines for use and safety regulations. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call (423) 643-7982.</p>
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# Employee Assistance Program

The **ComPsych® GuidanceResources®** employee assistance program services include counseling for marital/family, depression, addiction, stress/anger, life transitions or any issue for short term counseling for you or an immediate household family member.

- In-person help with short-term issues
- Unlimited telephonic support - Legal service, financial service, work life service
- Financial consultations and referrals
- Work/life services for assistance with child care, finding movers, kennels and pet care, vacation planning, and more.
- Toll-free phone and web access 24/7

Get Unlimited FREE help at:

[www.guidanceresources.com](http://www.guidanceresources.com)

Web ID: CHATTEAP

Or Call (844) 268-5475

Digital Solutions are available to help with financial wellness and taking care of yourself through a guided program.

# Wellness Rewards Program

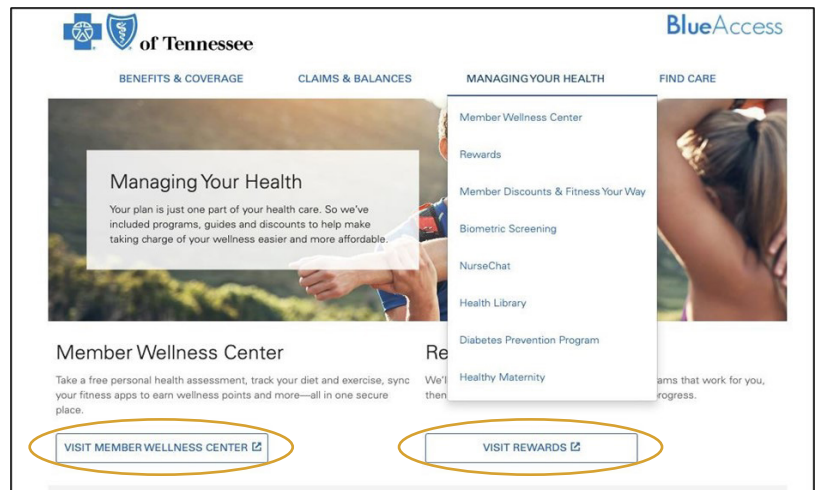
The City of Chattanooga is proud to provide each employee with a comprehensive wellness program, administered by BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee (BCBST), to help you reach your health and wellness goals. The employee must be enrolled in the Medical Insurance to participate in this program.

Our Wellness Rewards program lets you choose from a variety of activities to complete in order to earn up to 30,000 points. You can then redeem your points in the online Rewards catalog for things like gift cards, event tickets, electronics, and more. Your points expire 36 months from the day they are earned. Examples of Rewards activities you can earn points for are:

- Annual Physical
- Mammogram
- Steps
- Exercise activities of 30 minutes or more
- Work with a fitness trainer or dietitian
- And more!

The first step on your journey to wellness is to register at [www.bcbst.com](http://www.bcbst.com). From here, you can access your Rewards portal by choosing “Rewards” from the “Managing Your Health” tab, where you’ll find new wellness activities to try and can check your progress along the way. To find out more about your plan’s incentives and rewards or your terms and conditions, call us at 1-844-269-2583 (844-2MYBLUE) or email us at [help@bcbstrewards.com](mailto:help@bcbstrewards.com).

The official Rewards Program Member Guide containing more details about this program will be sent after the beginning of the plan year.



# Dental Benefits



Your dental benefits are provided by **Cigna**. There are three dental plans offered.

**Dental 1000** and **Dental 1500-O** are PPO plans. You may visit your provider of choice, however, you will receive the best benefits by using an in network provider at the Cigna DPPO Advantage level in the Cigna Total DPPO network.

**Dental HMO** is an HMO plan. **You must choose your dentist before you receive services.** The cost of services is based on the Patient Charge Schedule. Find your dentist in the Cigna Dental Care Access Plus network.

To find a provider in the network, visit [www.cigna.com](http://www.cigna.com) and click on "Find A Doctor, Dentist or Facility."

Monthly Premiums		
Rate Tier	Dental 1000	Dental 1500-O
Employee Only	\$27.00	\$31.36
Employee + Child(ren)	\$50.84	\$59.04
Employee + Spouse	\$62.18	\$72.22
Employee + Family	\$86.14	\$100.04

Rate Tier	Dental HMO
Employee Only	\$13.50
Employee + 1	\$21.88
Employee + 2 or more	\$33.32

*'Employee +1' means a spouse or one child*  
*'Employee +2 or more' means 2 or more children or family*

Plan Features	Dental 1000	Dental 1500-O	Dental HMO
<b>Calendar Year Annual Maximum</b> Applies to all benefits including Preventive, Basic & Major services.	\$1,000	\$1,500	Unlimited annual maximum, refer to Schedule of Benefits
<b>Calendar Year Deductible</b> Per Individual / Family	\$50 / \$150	\$50 / \$150	None
<b>Preventive &amp; Diagnostic (Class I)</b> Includes oral exams, cleanings, sealants, x-rays, fluoride treatment, space maintainers	Plan pays 100%	Plan Pays 100%	Refer to Schedule of Benefits GIV9 Reduced, fixed, pre-set charges apply for all services. Certain limitations apply and you must select and identify your dental provider prior to treatment. Once enrolled, you may access the Schedule of Benefits: <a href="http://www.mycigna.com">www.mycigna.com</a> .
<b>Basic Services (Class II)</b> Fillings, simple extractions, periodontal maintenance, palliative treatment	Plan pays 80%	Plan pays 80%	
<b>Major Services (Class III)</b> Surgical extractions, oral surgery, root canals (endodontics), periodontal therapy and surgery, crowns, dentures, bridges, inlays, onlays	Plan pays 50%	Plan pays 50%	
<b>Orthodontia Coinsurance</b> Lifetime Limit - dependent children and adults	Not covered	\$1,500	Refer to Schedule of Benefits



# Vision Benefits



The Vision plan is designed to encourage you and your family to visit the optometrist or ophthalmologist regularly to maintain your vision health. This benefit is administered by **EyeMed** and you must use an EyeMed provider.

The Vision Plan described below can be purchased with monthly premiums and offers covered benefits for exams, glasses and contacts. For more information and for a list of providers, visit [www.bcbst.com/members/chattanooga](http://www.bcbst.com/members/chattanooga). **This is an EyeMed Benefit and you must use a Provider that is In-Network with BCBST/EyeMed to receive the full In-Network Benefit.**

Monthly Vision Rates	
Employee Only	\$5.52
Employee + Child(ren)	\$11.32
Employee + Spouse	\$10.80
Employee + Family	\$16.08

Vision Benefits	In-Network	Out-of-Network
<b>Vision Exam</b>	\$10 copay	\$35 allowance
<b>Lenses</b>		
<i>Single / Bifocal / Trifocal</i>	\$25 copay	\$30 / \$45 / \$60 allowance
<i>Progressive, Anti-reflective and Photochromic</i>	\$65 additional copay	\$45 allowance
<b>Frames</b>	\$150 allowance	\$75 allowance
<b>Contact Lenses</b>		
<i>Medically Necessary</i>	Paid-in-full	\$120 allowance
<i>Conventional Disposable</i>	\$150 allowance	\$200 allowance



# Disability Plans

**Important! Please refer to your Plan Documents for definitions and eligibility rules.**

## Short-Term Disability (STD) Insurance

Short-Term Disability (STD) Insurance can help support you and your family should you become temporarily disabled. This coverage is provided by **Symetra** and is paid entirely by you.

**Please note:** You may be asked to answer health questions if adding short-term disability coverage outside of your initial eligibility period.

Short-Term Disability Rates	
Age Last Birthday as of January 1, 2024	Monthly Rate per \$10 of Benefit
Less than 55	\$0.407
55-59	\$0.631
60 and up	\$1.063

## Long-Term Disability (LTD) Insurance

**\*\*For those in the General Pension Plan Only\*\***

Long-Term Disability (LTD) Insurance can protect your income in case of a long-term injury or illness. This coverage is provided through **Symetra** and paid entirely by the employer.

Contact the HR Benefits Office at (423) 643-7220 with your questions about this benefit.

Disability Details	Short-Term Disability	Long-Term Disability <i>(General Pension Plan Participants Only)</i>
<b>Income Replacement</b>	50% or 70% of weekly earnings	60% of monthly earnings*
<b>Maximum Benefit</b>	\$2,000/week	Up to \$5,000/month
<b>Accident Elimination Period</b>	14 days	180 days
<b>Illness Elimination Period</b>	14 days	
<b>Benefit Duration</b>	Terminate after 24 weeks	Social Security Normal Retirement Age

*\*Partial disability benefits may be available.*



# Basic and Supplemental Life



## Basic Life/AD&D Insurance | *Paid for by the Employer*

At the City of Chattanooga, Basic Life/Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) Insurance is a provided benefit at no cost to you through **Symetra**.

Basic Life/AD&D	
<b>Coverage Amount</b>	Coverage equal to employee's stated annual salary rounded to the next \$1,000, but no more than \$50,000
<b>Age Reduction</b>	Benefits reduce to 65% at age 70 and to 50% at age 75

## Supplemental Life and AD&D Insurance | *Purchased by the Employee*

You have the option to purchase Supplemental Term Life and AD&D through **Symetra**. Health related questions may be required by the vendor before coverage is issued. You may purchase:

Supplemental Life/AD&D*			
	Employee	Spouse	Child(ren)
<b>Coverage Amount</b>	Increments of \$10,000 up to 5 times salary, not to exceed \$500,000	Increments of \$5,000 up to employee's amount, not to exceed \$250,000	Increments of \$2,000, not to exceed \$10,000
<b>Age Reduction</b>	Benefits reduce to 65% at age 70 and to 50% at age 75	Benefits reduce to 65% at employee's age 70 and to 50% at employee's age 75	Not Applicable

*\*If an employee and spouse are both City employees, they cannot cover each other.*

**Important!** Please refer to your Plan Documents for definitions and eligibility rules.

Employee & Spouse Age	Monthly Rate Per \$1,000
Under 25	\$0.077
25 - 29	\$0.088
30 - 34	\$0.107
35 - 39	\$0.148
40 - 44	\$0.212
45 - 49	\$0.337
50 - 54	\$0.538
55 - 59	\$0.832
60 - 64	\$1.312
65 - 69	\$2.293
70 - 74	\$4.095
75 - 79	\$7.948
80+	\$7.948
Child(ren) Flat Rate (Per \$1,000)	\$0.20
AD&D per \$1,000	\$0.04



# Worksite Benefits



**\*\*You do not have to be enrolled in any other benefit to enroll in these plans.\*\***

**Unum** will continue to provide additional voluntary worksite benefits for City employees and their families. You can enroll in these benefits through the Oracle system.

## Group Hospital Indemnity

Group Hospital Indemnity Insurance pays a lump sum benefit for qualified hospital admissions and confinement.

- Cash benefits paid directly to you
- A Be Well benefit which pays \$50 for specified exams, procedures, and screenings
- Rates will not go up as you age
- Coverage is available for employees, legal spouses, and dependent children

See the Highlight sheet at [mychattanoogaenefits.com](http://mychattanoogaenefits.com) and The Landing for more information.

Monthly Payroll Premiums	
Employee Only	\$17.46
Employee + Spouse	\$35.90
Employee + Child(ren)	\$26.60
Employee + Family	\$45.04

## Group Accident Insurance

Accident Insurance pays benefits for covered off-the-job accidents based on the type of accident and the treatments received.

- Cash benefits paid directly to you
- Rates will not go up as you age
- Coverage is available for employees, legal spouses, and dependent children

See the Highlight sheet at [mychattanoogaenefits.com](http://mychattanoogaenefits.com) and The Landing for more information.

Monthly Payroll Premiums	
Employee Only	\$9.06
Employee + Spouse	\$16.62
Employee + Child(ren)	\$22.82
Employee + Family	\$30.38

## Group Critical Illness Insurance

Critical Illness Insurance pays a lump-sum payment if you are diagnosed with a covered health condition.

- Cash benefit is paid directly to you.
- Includes a Be Well benefit that pays for specified exams, procedures, and screenings
- Coverage is available for employees, legal spouses, and dependent children
- Rates are age banded and based on the Employee's age.

See the Highlight sheet at [mychattanoogaenefits.com](http://mychattanoogaenefits.com) and The Landing for more information.

Age**	Monthly Payroll Premiums (for \$10,000 of coverage)*	
	Employee	Employee & Spouse
Under 25	\$3.76	\$6.48
25 - 29	\$4.36	\$7.38
30 - 34	\$5.16	\$8.58
35 - 39	\$6.36	\$10.38
40 - 44	\$8.26	\$13.22
45 - 49	\$11.36	\$17.88
50 - 54	\$16.06	\$24.92
55 - 59	\$21.66	\$33.32
60 - 64	\$36.66	\$55.82
65 - 69	\$49.26	\$74.72
70 - 74	\$50.66	\$76.82
75 - 79	\$68.76	\$103.98
80 - 84	\$92.26	\$139.22
85 +	\$134.46	\$202.52

\*Premiums for \$20,000 and \$30,000 are separate rate tables.

\*\*Age banded rates are based on the Employee's age.

Scan the QR code for more information on Unum worksite benefits!



# Unum Voluntary Whole Life



**Unum** will continue to provide this additional voluntary benefit for City employees and their families. You must contact Unum by calling 1-866-643-9404 to enroll.

Whole Life Insurance can provide added financial security for you and your family. This life insurance option is separate and different from your group term life insurance, in that it accumulates cash value over time. The premiums never increase, so the amount you pay when you sign up is the amount you will always pay. The insurance also includes an option that will allow you to stop paying at age 70, while still keeping the coverage for life. Additionally, if you reach a point in life where your health condition qualifies, the policy can be used to pay for long-term care expenses. Coverage is available for employees, spouses, and children.

## Unum Contacts

### Enrollment Number

1-866-643-9404

### Unum Member Services:

1-800-635-5597





# General Pension Plan

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The City provides various benefits to assist with your future financial security as you plan for retirement or in the event of a disability. If you are a civilian full-time employee of the City, you are automatically a member of the General Pension Plan (Plan).

## General Pension Plan

As a participant, you contribute 2% of your pensionable earnings to the Plan and the City contributes additional amounts sufficient to fund the future retirement benefit payments from the Plan. The City's contribution will vary from year to year based on the recommendations of the Plan's actuary and the General Pension Plan Board of Trustees. The Trustees direct the investment strategy and objectives for the growth of the Plan's assets. All combined, the Plan will furnish a lifetime of retirement benefits for its participants.

The Plan is a defined benefit plan, which means that your basic monthly benefit is based on your years of service in the Plan and the average of your three highest calendar year earnings while in the Plan. A participant becomes vested in the Plan after earning 60 pension service credits. The Plan's stated normal retirement age is 62; however, a vested participant can retire as early as age 55 with a reduced benefit. If a vested participant has met the Rule of 80 before age 62, the participant can retire early without reduction in benefits. The basic monthly pension benefit is a single life annuity. The Plan offers other payment options that may help the participant to reach personal retirement goals.

For more information about this valuable benefit and Plan features, please visit the web page: <http://www.chattanooga.gov/general-pension-plan>.

Contact the HR Benefits Office at (423) 643-7224 with your questions about this benefit.

# Deferred Compensation

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## Deferred Compensation Plan (457b)

Regardless of your participation in a pension plan, if you have income, you can specify an amount to be set aside through payroll deduction in a deferred compensation plan.

The 457b deferred compensation plan is designed for governments and operates in a manner similar to a 401(k). There are four different programs available through the City. You may choose from Empower, Nationwide, Voya, and ICMA to defer a portion of your income before tax to supplement your retirement. Each plan has a booklet that contains all the forms necessary to set up your deferrals and describes the menu of assets available for investment. You select the assets that fit your 'risk profile' to allocate and grow your dollars and increase your retirement nest egg. But even if you only contribute a small amount, with your selection of assets to grow your dollars, the funds can help you to supplement your retirement or provide insurance against unforeseeable future expenses.

- Employee Contributions: Your pre-tax contributions are made through payroll deduction. You may stop deductions or make changes to your contribution percentage by completing a form.
- Elective Deferral Maximum Contribution: You can make elective deferrals up to the maximum allowed by federal regulations. The maximum annual amount is \$23,000 for 2024.
- Catch-up Contribution: If you are age 50 or older and make the maximum allowable deferral, you are entitled to make additional 'catch-up' contributions of \$7,500 for 2024.
- Rollovers: Employees may transfer balances from other tax-qualified plans, 403(b), 457(b), traditional IRA, 401(k).
- Withdrawals: Withdrawals of money from your account will incur a mandatory 20% tax withholding, and may incur an additional 10% tax penalty, unless it is a hardship withdrawal or a rollover to another plan.

For further information about the City of Chattanooga's deferred compensation plan, contact Lindsay Lacy at (423) 643-7382 or [llacy@chattanooga.gov](mailto:llacy@chattanooga.gov).



# Benefit Contacts

Benefit Plan	Administrator	Contact Number	Website
Medical	BCBS of Tennessee	1-800-539-0688	<a href="http://www.bcbst.com">www.bcbst.com</a>
Prescription Drugs	EpiphanyRx	1-844-820-3260	<a href="http://www.epiphanyrx.com">www.epiphanyrx.com</a>
Telemedicine	Teladoc	1-800-835-2362	<a href="http://www.bcbst.com/Teladoc">www.bcbst.com/Teladoc</a>
Health Savings Account	HealthEquity	1-866-346-5800	<a href="http://www.healthequity.com">www.healthequity.com</a>
Dental	Cigna	1-800-244-6224	<a href="http://www.mycigna.com">www.mycigna.com</a>
Vision	BCBS of Tennessee	1-877-342-0737	<a href="http://www.bcbst.com">www.bcbst.com</a>
Flexible Spending Account	TASC	1-800-422-4661	<a href="http://www.tasconline.com">www.tasconline.com</a>
Wellness Rewards	BCBS of Tennessee	1-844-269-2583	<a href="http://www.bcbst.com">www.bcbst.com</a>
Basic Life Insurance	Symetra	1-800-426-7784	<a href="http://www.symetra.com">www.symetra.com</a>
Supplemental Life Insurance	Symetra	1-800-426-7784	<a href="http://www.symetra.com">www.symetra.com</a>
FMLA	Symetra	1-877-377-6773	<a href="http://www.symetra.com">www.symetra.com</a>
Short-Term Disability	Symetra	1-877-377-6773	<a href="http://www.symetra.com">www.symetra.com</a>
Long-Term Disability	Symetra	1-800-426-7784	<a href="http://www.symetra.com">www.symetra.com</a>
Worksite Benefits	Unum	1-800-635-5597	<a href="http://www.unum.com">www.unum.com</a>
Whole Life Insurance	Unum	1-800-635-5597	<a href="http://www.unum.com">www.unum.com</a>
Employee Assistance Program	ComPsych® GuidanceResources®	1-844-268-5475	<a href="http://www.guidanceresources.com">www.guidanceresources.com</a> App: GuidanceResourcesNow Web ID: CHATTEAP
Deferred Compensation Plan	City of Chattanooga	423-643-7382	<a href="http://www.chattanooga.gov">www.chattanooga.gov</a>
General Pension Plan	City of Chattanooga	423-643-7224	<a href="http://www.chattanooga.gov/general-pension-plan">www.chattanooga.gov/ general-pension-plan</a>

Visit the Chattanooga Employee Benefits Website for more information: [www.mychattanoogabenefits.com](http://www.mychattanoogabenefits.com).

If you have questions, please contact the Benefits Office at  
(423) 643-7220 or [benefits@chattanooga.gov](mailto:benefits@chattanooga.gov).

# Notes

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# Annual Notices

**SUMMARY OF BENEFIT COVERAGE** The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Affordable Care Act or ACA) requires health plans and health insurance issuers to provide a Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC) to applicants and enrollees. The SBC is provided by your Medical carrier. Its purpose is to help health plan consumers better understand the coverage they have and to help them make easy comparisons of different options when shopping for new coverage. This information is available when you apply for coverage, by the first day of coverage (if there are any changes), when your dependents are enrolled off your annual open enrollment period, upon plan renewal and upon request at no charge to you.

**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).

To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since **July 31, 2023**, or for more information on special enrollment rights, contact either:

**U.S. Department of Labor**  
Employee Benefits Security Administration  
[www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa](http://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](http://www.cms.hhs.gov)  
1-877-267-2323, Menu Option 4, Ext. 61565

Alabama .....	855-692-5447
Alaska .....	866-251-4861
Arkansas .....	855-692-7447
California .....	916-445-8322
Colorado .....	800-221-3943
Florida .....	877-357-3268
Georgia .....	678-564-1162
Indiana .....	877-438-4479
Iowa .....	888-346-9562
Kansas .....	800-792-4884
Kentucky .....	855-459-6328

Louisiana .....	855-618-5488
Maine .....	800-442-6003
Massachusetts .....	800-862-4840
Minnesota .....	800-657-3739
Missouri .....	573-751-2005
Montana .....	800-694-3084
Nebraska .....	855-632-7633
Nevada .....	800-992-0900
New Hampshire .....	603-271-5218
New Jersey .....	800-701-0710
New York .....	800-541-2831
North Carolina .....	919-855-4100
North Dakota .....	844-854-4825
Oklahoma .....	888-365-3742
Oregon .....	800-699-9075
Pennsylvania .....	800-692-7462
Rhode Island .....	855-697-4347
South Carolina .....	888-549-0820
South Dakota .....	888-828-0059
Texas .....	800-440-0493
Utah .....	877-543-7669
Vermont .....	800-250-8427
Virginia .....	800-432-5924
Washington .....	800-562-3022
West Virginia .....	855-699-8447
Wisconsin .....	800-362-3002
Wyoming .....	800-251-1269

For a listing of State websites, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ebsa/laws-and-regulations/laws/chipra/model-notice.pdf>

For states not listed:  
877-543-7669  
[www.insurekidsnow.gov](http://www.insurekidsnow.gov)

**OMB Control Number 1210-0137**  
**Expires 1/31/2026**

## **NOTICE OF PATIENT PROTECTIONS**

Your medical plan may require the designation of a primary care provider (PCP). You have the right to designate any PCP who participates in our network and who is available to accept you or your family members. Until you make this designation, the medical plan may designate one for you. For information on how to select a PCP, and for a list of the participating providers, contact your carrier.

If you must select a PCP for your child(ren), you may designate a pediatrician as such.

You do not need prior authorization from your carrier or from any other person (including a PCP) 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 your carrier.

## **YOUR RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS AGAINST SURPRISE MEDICAL BILLS**

**Introduction.** The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 was enacted on December 27, 2020, and contains many provisions to help protect consumers from surprise bills, including the No Surprises Act under title I and Transparency under title II.

**Your Rights and Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills.** When you get emergency care or get treated by an out-of-network provider at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, you are protected from surprise billing or balance billing.



**What is “balance billing” (sometimes called “surprise billing”)?** When you see a doctor or other health care provider, you may owe certain out-of-pocket costs, such as a copayment, coinsurance, and/or a deductible. You may have other costs or have to pay the entire bill if you see a provider or visit a health care facility that isn’t in your health plan’s network.

“Out-of-network” describes providers and facilities that haven’t signed a contract with your health plan. Out-of-network providers may be permitted to bill you for the difference between what your plan agreed to pay and the full amount charged for a service. This is called “balance billing.” This amount is likely more than in-network costs for the same service and might not count toward your annual out-of-pocket limit.

“Surprise billing” is an unexpected balance bill. This can happen when you can’t control who is involved in your care—like when you have an emergency or when you schedule a visit at an in-network facility but are unexpectedly treated by an out-of-network provider.

**You are protected from balance billing for:**

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

**Certain services at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center.** When you get services from an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, certain providers there may be out-of-network. In these cases, the most those providers may bill you is your plan’s in-network cost-sharing amount. This applies to emergency medicine, anesthesia, pathology, radiology, laboratory, neonatology, assistant surgeon, hospitalist, or intensivist services. These providers can’t balance bill you and may not ask you to give up your protections not to be balance billed.

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

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

**When balance billing isn’t allowed, you also have the following protections:**

- You are only responsible for paying your share of the cost (like the copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles that you would pay if the provider or facility was in-network).

Your health plan will pay out-of-network providers and facilities directly.

- Your health plan generally must:
  - Cover emergency services without requiring you to get approval for services in advance (prior authorization).
  - Cover emergency services by out-of-network providers.
  - Base what you owe the provider or facility (cost-sharing) on what it would pay an in-network provider or facility and show that amount in your explanation of benefits.
  - Count any amount you pay for emergency services or out-of-network services toward your deductible and out-of-pocket limit.

**If you believe you’ve been wrongly billed,** you may contact Department of Health and Human Services to reach the entity responsible for enforcing the federal balance or surprise billing protection laws at 1-800-985-3059.

Visit <https://www.cms.gov/nosurprises> for more information about your rights under federal law.

**HIPAA– PRIVACY ACT LEGISLATION** The Health Plan and your health care carrier(s) are obligated to protect confidential health information that identifies you or could be

used to identify you as it relates to a physical or mental health condition or payment of your health care expenses. If you elect new coverage, you and your beneficiaries will be notified of the policies and practices to protect the confidentiality of your health information.

**WOMEN’S HEALTH AND CANCER RIGHTS ACT** The Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act (WHCRA) includes protections for individuals who elect breast reconstruction in connection with a mastectomy. WHCRA provides that group health plans provide coverage for medical and surgical benefits with respect to mastectomies. It must also cover certain post-mastectomy benefits, including reconstructive surgery and the treatment of complications (such as lymphedema). Coverage for mastectomy-related services or benefits required under the WHCRA are subject to the same deductible and coinsurance or copayment provisions that apply to other medical or surgical benefits your group contract providers.

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

**SECTION 111 OF JANUARY 1, 2009** Group Health Plans (GHP) are required to comply with the Federal Medicare Secondary Payer Mandatory Reporting provisions in Section 111 of the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007. It requires employers to report specified information regarding their GHP coverage (including Social Security numbers) in order for CMS to determine primary versus secondary payment responsibility. In essence, it helps determine if the Employer plan or Medicare/Medicaid/SCHIP is primary for those employees covered under a government plan and an employer sponsored plan.

**THE NEWBORNS’ AND MOTHERS’ HEALTH PROTECTION ACT OF 1996** The Newborns’ and Mothers’ Health Protection Act of 1996 provides that 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). An attending provider is defined as an individual who is licensed under applicable state law to provide maternal or pediatric care and who is directly responsible for providing such care to a mother or newborn child. The definition of attending provider does not include a plan, hospital, managed care organization or other issuer. In any case, plans may not, under federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours). Please contact us if you would like any additional information on The Newborns’ and Mothers’ Health Protection Act or WHCRA.

**MICHELLE’S LAW** An amendment to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), the Public Health Service Act (PHSA), and the Internal Revenue Code (IRC), this law ensures that dependent students who take a medically necessary leave of absence do not lose health insurance coverage. Michelle’s Law allows seriously ill college students, who are covered dependents under health plans, to continue coverage for up to one year while on medically necessary leaves of absence. The leave must be medically necessary as certified by a physician, and the change in enrollment must commence while the dependent is suffering from a serious

illness or injury and must cause the dependent to lose student status. Under the law, a dependent child is entitled to the same level of benefits during a medically necessary leave of absence as the child had before taking the leave. If any changes are made to the health plan during the leave, the child remains eligible for the changed coverage in the same manner as would have applied if the changed coverage had been the previous coverage, so long as the changed coverage remains available to other dependent children under the plan.

**UNIFORMED SERVICES EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT OF 1994 (USERRA)** The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) was signed into law on October 13, 1994. USERRA clarifies and strengthens the Veterans' Reemployment Rights (VRR) Statute. The Act itself can be found in the United States Code at Chapter 43, Part III, Title 38. The Department of Labor has issued regulations that clarify its position on the rights of returning service members to family and medical leave under the USERRA. See 20 CFR Part 1002.210. USERRA is intended to minimize the disadvantages to an individual that occur when that person needs to be absent from his or her civilian employment to serve in this country's uniformed services. USERRA makes major improvements in protecting service member rights and benefits by clarifying the law and improving enforcement mechanisms. It also provides employees with Department of Labor assistance in processing claims. USERRA covers virtually every individual in the country who serves in or has served in the uniformed services and applies to all employers in the public and private sectors, including Federal employers. The law seeks to ensure that those who serve their country can retain their civilian employment and benefits, and can seek employment free from discrimination because of their service. USERRA provides protection for disabled veterans, requiring employers to make reasonable efforts to accommodate the disability. USERRA is administered by the United States Department of Labor, through the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS). VETS provides assistance to those persons experiencing service connected problems with their civilian employment and provides information about the Act to employers. VETS also assists veterans who have questions regarding Veterans' Preference.

#### **HIPAA SPECIAL ENROLLMENT**

**SPECIAL ENROLLMENT NOTICE** This notice is being provided to make certain that you understand your right to apply for group health insurance coverage. You should read this notice even if you plan to waive health insurance coverage at this time.

**Loss of Other Coverage** If you are declining coverage 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 the employer stops contributing toward your or your dependents' other coverage). However, you must request enrollment within 30 days after your or your dependents' other coverage ends (or after the employer stops contributing toward the other coverage).

**Example:** You waived coverage under this plan because you were covered under a plan offered by your spouse's employer. Your spouse terminates employment. If you notify your employer within 30 days of the date coverage ends, you and your eligible dependents may apply for coverage under this health plan.

**Marriage, Birth, or Adoption** If you have a new dependent as a result of a 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, or placement for adoption.

**Example:** When you were hired, you were single and chose not to elect health insurance benefits. One year later, you marry. You and your eligible dependents are entitled to enroll in this group health plan. However, you must apply within 30 days

from the date of your marriage.

**Medicaid or CHIP** If you or your dependents lose eligibility for coverage under Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or become eligible for a premium assistance subsidy under Medicaid or CHIP, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents. You must request enrollment within 60 days of the loss of Medicaid or CHIP coverage or the determination of eligibility for a premium assistance subsidy.

**Example:** When you were hired, your children received health coverage under CHIP and you did not enroll them in this health plan. Because of changes in your income, your children are no longer eligible for CHIP coverage. You may enroll them in this group health plan if you apply within 60 days of the date of their loss of CHIP coverage. For More Information or Assistance To request special enrollment or obtain more information, please contact:

Cheryl Powell  
101 E. 11th Street, Suite #201  
Chattanooga, TN 37402  
(423) 643-7220

Note: If you or your dependents enroll during a special enrollment period, as described above, you will not be considered a late enrollee. Therefore, your group health plan may not impose a preexisting condition exclusion period of more than 12 months. Any preexisting condition exclusion period will be reduced by the amount of your prior creditable health coverage. Effective for plan years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2014, health plans may not impose pre-existing condition exclusions on any enrollees.

**HITECH (FROM WWW.CDC.GOV)** The American Reinvestment & Recovery Act (ARRA) was enacted on February 17, 2009. ARRA includes many measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, one of which is the "Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act." The HITECH Act supports the concept of meaningful use (MU) of electronic health records (EHR), an effort led by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC). HITECH proposes the meaningful use of interoperable electronic health records throughout the United States health care delivery system as a critical national goal. Meaningful Use is defined by the use of certified EHR technology in a meaningful manner (for example electronic prescribing); ensuring that the certified EHR technology is connected in a manner that provides for the electronic exchange of health information to improve the quality of care; and that in using certified EHR technology the provider must submit to the Secretary of Health & Human Services (HHS) information on quality of care and other measures.

**RESCISSIONS** The Affordable Care Act prohibits the rescission of health plan coverage except for fraud or intentional misrepresentation of a material fact. A rescission of a person's health plan coverage means that we would treat that person as never having had the coverage. The prohibition on rescissions applies to group health plans, including grandfathered plans, effective for plan years beginning on or after September 23, 2010.

Regulations provide that a rescission includes any retroactive terminations or retroactive cancellations of coverage except to the extent that the termination or cancellation is due to the failure to timely pay premiums. Rescissions are prohibited except in the case of fraud or intentional misrepresentation of a material fact. For example, if an employee is enrolled in the plan and makes the required contributions, then the employee's coverage may not be rescinded if it is later discovered that the employee was mistakenly enrolled and was not eligible to participate. If a mistake was made, and there was no fraud or intentional misrepresentation of a material fact, then the employee's coverage may be cancelled prospectively but not retroactively.

Should a member's coverage be rescinded, then the member must be provided 30 days advance written notice of the rescission. The notice must also include the member's appeal

rights as required by law and as provided in the member's plan benefit documents.

**MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT (MHPAEA)** MHPAEA generally applies to group health plans and health insurance issuers that provide coverage for both mental health or substance use disorder benefits and medical/surgical benefits. MHPAEA provides with respect to parity in coverage of mental health and substance use disorder benefits and medical/surgical benefits provided by employment-based group health plans. MHPA '96 required parity with respect to aggregate lifetime and annual dollar limits for mental health benefits. MHPAEA expands those provisions to include substance use disorder benefits. Thus, under MHPAEA group health plans and issuers may not impose a lifetime or annual dollar limit on mental health or substance use disorder benefits that is lower than the lifetime or annual dollar limit imposed on medical/surgical benefits. MHPAEA also requires group health plans and health insurance issuers to ensure that financial requirements (such as co-pays and deductibles), and quantitative treatment limitations (such as visit limits), applicable to mental health or substance use disorder benefits are generally no more restrictive than the requirements or limitations applied to medical/surgical benefits. The MHPAEA regulations also require plans and issuers to ensure parity with respect to no quantitative treatment limitations (such as medical management standards).

**PREVENTIVE CARE** Health plans will provide in-network, first-dollar coverage, without cost-sharing, for preventative services and immunizations as determined under health care reform regulations. These include, but are not limited to, cancer screenings, well-baby visits and influenza vaccines. For a complete list of covered services, please visit: <https://www.healthcare.gov/coverage/preventive-care-benefits/>

**WELLNESS PROGRAM** Our company's Wellness Program is a voluntary wellness program available to all employees. 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, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, as applicable, among others. If you choose to participate in the wellness program you will be asked to complete a voluntary health risk assessment or "HRA" that asks a series of questions about your health-related activities and behaviors and whether you have or had certain medical conditions (e.g., cancer, diabetes, or heart disease). You may also be asked to complete a biometric screening, which may include a blood test. You are not required to complete the HRA or to participate in the blood test or other medical examinations.

*The above Wellness Program notice is only applicable if your plan administrator or medical plan provides a wellness program.*

**HIPAA PRIVACY NOTICE** The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA") requires that we maintain the privacy of protected health information, give notice of our legal duties and privacy practices regarding health information about you and follow the terms of our notice currently in effect.

You may request a copy of the current Privacy Practices from the Plan Administrator explaining how medical information about you may be used and disclosed, and how you can get access to this information. **As Required by Law.** We will disclose Health Information when required to do so by international, federal, state or local law.

You have the right to inspect and copy, the right to an electronic copy of electronic medical records, right to get notice of a breach, right to amend, right to an accounting of disclosures, right to request restrictions, right to request confidential communications, right to a paper copy of this notice and the right to file a complaint if you believe your privacy rights have been violated.

**Individual Rights** You may obtain a copy of your health claims records and other health information from us typically within a 30 day period from your request. We may charge a

reasonable, cost-based fee. You may ask us to correct your health/claims records if you think they are incorrect. We reserve the right to say "no" to your request, but will give you an explanation in writing within a 60 day period. Requesting a specific way to contact you for confidential reasons is permitted (home or office phone for example), specifically if you would be in danger from a certain form of communication.

If you would like us not to use or share certain health information for treatment, payment or our operations, you are permitted to do so. However, we are not required to agree to your request if it would affect your care. At your request, we will provide you with a list of the times we have shared your health information up to six years prior to your request date, who we shared it with, and why. This list will include all disclosures excluding treatment, payment, and health care operations, as well as other certain disclosures (such as any you ask us to make). We provide one list a year for free but will charge a reasonable, cost-based fee if you ask for another one within 12 months.

You can ask for a paper copy of this notice at any time, which we will promptly provide, even if you have agreed to receive the notice electronically. If you have given someone medical power of attorney or if you have a legal guardian, that person can exercise your rights and make choices about your health information. We will make sure they have this authority and can act in your interests before we take any action.

If you feel that we have violated your rights, you may contact us using the information on the back page, or file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights by sending a letter to 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, calling 1-877-696-6775, or visiting [www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/). We can assure no retaliation from us against you for filing a complaint.

For certain health information, you can tell us your choices about what we share. You have the right and choice to tell us to share information with your family, close friends, or others involved in payment for your care, and in a disaster relief situation. If you are not able to tell us your preference, for example if you are unconscious, we may go ahead and share your information if we believe it is in your best interest and when needed to lessen a serious and imminent threat to health or safety. We never share your information for marketing purposes of sale of your information without your expressed written consent.

**Our Uses and Disclosures** We typically use or share your information in several different ways. We help manage the healthcare treatment you receive by sharing information with professionals who are treating you. We can use and disclose your information to run our organization and contact you when necessary. We are not allowed to use genetic information to decide whether we will give you coverage and the price of that coverage (this does not apply to long term care plans). Our organization can use and disclose your health information as we pay for your health services, as well as disclose your health information to your health plan sponsor for plan administration.

**Other Uses and Disclosures** Typically in the matter of public health and safety issues, we can use and share your information. For instance, preventing disease, helping with product recalls, reporting adverse reactions to medications, reporting suspected abuse, neglect or domestic violence, as well as preventing or reducing a serious threat to anyone's health or safety, and health research.

We may need to share your information if state or federal law requires it, including the Department of Health and Human Services if it wishes to see that we're complying with federal privacy law. Other organizations and professionals we may share your information with are organ procurement organizations, coroners, medical examiners, and funeral directors. We can share your information in special instances such as for worker's compensation claims, law enforcement purposes, health oversight agencies for activities authorized by law, and for special government functions such as military, national security, and presidential protective services. We can share information about you in response to a court or administrative order, or in response to a subpoena.

**Our Responsibilities** We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your protected health information. We will let you know promptly if a breach occurs that may have compromised the privacy or security of your information. We must follow the duties and privacy practices described in this notice and give you a copy of it. We will not use or share your information other than as described here unless you tell us we can in writing. If you tell us we can, you may change your mind at any time. Let us know in writing if you change your mind.

***“We, Our, and Us” is defined as the insurance carrier for fully insured plans or the plan administrator or third party administrator for self insured plans.***

### **CONTINUATION COVERAGE RIGHTS UNDER COBRA**

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 our company, 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 [or enter longer period permitted under the terms of the Plan] after the qualifying event occurs. You must provide this notice to the appropriate party.

**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. [Add description of any additional Plan procedures for this notice, including a description of any required information or documentation, the name of the appropriate party to whom notice must be sent, and the time period for giving notice.]

**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) - <https://www.healthcare.gov/are-my-children-eligible-for-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 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> or <https://www.medicare.gov/sign-up-change-plans/how-do-i-get-parts-a-b/part-a-part-b-sign-up-periods>.

**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

Cheryl Powell  
101 E. 11th Street, Suite #201  
Chattanooga, TN 37402  
(423) 643-7220



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Produced and Printed by Russ Blakely & Associates, 11/2023

## **Important Notice from Our Company 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 Our Company 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. Our Company has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the medical 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.

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### **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 employee coverage will not be affected. You can keep this coverage if you elect part D and the Medical Carrier plan will coordinate with Part D coverage.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Our Company's 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 City of Chattanooga 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.

## **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).**

<b>Date</b>	01/01/2024
<b>Name of Entity</b>	The City of Chattanooga
<b>Contact</b>	Cheryl Powell
<b>Address</b>	101 E. 11th Street, Suite #201 Chattanooga, TN 37402
<b>Phone</b>	(423) 643-7220



**HR Benefits Office**

[benefits@chattanooga.gov](mailto:benefits@chattanooga.gov) | (423) 643-7220

[www.mychattanoogabenefits.com](http://www.mychattanoogabenefits.com)