

## **IMPORTANT NOTICES CONCERNING YOUR EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

The notices contained in this package describe important rights that you have under the terms of the Howard County Government Group Health Plans. If you have any questions or need additional information regarding these notices you can contact the Office of Human Resources at 410-313-2033.

### **NOTICE OF RIGHTS UNDER THE WOMEN'S HEALTH AND CANCER RIGHTS ACT (WHCRA)**

Do you know that your plan, as required by the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998, provides benefits for mastectomy-related services including all stages of reconstruction and surgery to achieve symmetry between the breasts, prostheses, and complications resulting from a mastectomy, including lymphedema? Contact your Employer Representative for more information.

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

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

These benefits will be provided subject to the same deductible and co-insurance particulars that are applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under this Plan. Howard County Government has provided the detailed information regarding deductible and co-insurance for the Group Health Plans. For more information or to get a copy of the Summary Plan Description containing these details contact the Office of Human Resources at 410-313-2033.

### **NEWBORNS' ACT DISCLOSURE**

The Howard County Government Group Health Plan does not 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. Federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under Federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the insurance issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

### **THE MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AND ADDICTION ACT NOTICE**

The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA) requires group health plans and health insurance issuers to ensure that financial requirements (such as co-pays, deductibles) and treatment limitations (such as visit limits) applicable to Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder (MH/SUD) benefits are no more restrictive than the predominant requirements or limitations applied to substantially all medical/surgical benefits.

Under MHPAEA, if a Plan or issuer that offers medical/surgical and MH/SUD benefits imposes "financial requirements" (such as deductibles, co-payments, coinsurance and out of pocket limitations), the financial

requirements applicable to MH/SUD benefits can be no more restrictive than the “predominant” financial requirements applied to “substantially all” medical/surgical benefits.

MHPAEA also provides similar protections for treatment limitations. “Treatment limitations” mean limits on the frequency of treatment, number of visits, days of coverage, or other similar limits on the scope or duration of treatment.

If a Plan or issuer that offers medical/surgical benefits on an out-of-network basis also offers MH/SUD benefits, it must offer the MH/SUD benefits on an out-of-network basis as well.

## **PATIENT PROTECTION PROHIBITION ON RESCISSIONS NOTICE**

Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) of March 23, 2010, for Plan Years beginning on or after September 23, 2010, a group health Plan, or a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage, must not rescind coverage except in the case of fraud or an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact. Under the new standard for rescissions, Plans and issuers cannot rescind coverage unless an individual was involved in fraud or made an intentional misrepresentation of material fact. These provisions generally provide that a health insurance issuer in the group and individual markets cannot cancel, or fail to renew, coverage for an individual or a group for any reason other than those enumerated in the statute (that is, nonpayment of premiums; fraud or intentional misrepresentation of material fact; withdrawal of a product or withdrawal of an issuer from the market; movement of an individual or an employer outside the service area; or, for bona fide association coverage, cessation of association membership).

These interim final regulations clarify that, to the extent that an omission constitutes fraud, that omission would permit the plan or issuer to rescind coverage under this section. For purposes of these interim final regulations, a rescission is a cancellation or discontinuance of coverage that has retroactive effect. For example, a cancellation that treats a policy as void from the time of the individual's or group's enrollment is a rescission. As another example, a cancellation that voids benefits paid up to a year before the cancellation is also a rescission for this purpose.

A cancellation or discontinuance of coverage with only a prospective effect is not a rescission, and neither is a cancellation or discontinuance of coverage that is effective retroactively to the extent it is attributable to a failure to timely pay required premiums or contributions towards the cost of coverage. Coverage may not be cancelled unless prior notice is provided. These interim final regulations provide that a group health Plan, or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage, must provide at least 30 calendar days advance notice to an individual before coverage may be rescinded. Even though prior notice must be provided in the case of a rescission, applicable law may permit the rescission to void coverage retroactively.

## **HIPAA SPECIAL ENROLLMENT RIGHTS NOTICE**

If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance or group health plan coverage, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage (or if the employer stops contributing toward your or your dependents' other coverage). However, you must request enrollment within 30 days after you or your dependents' other coverage ends (or after the employer stops contributing toward the other coverage). In addition, if you have a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents. However, you must request enrollment within 30 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact your Employer Representative.

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

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

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

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

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

**If you live in one of the following states, you may be eligible for assistance paying your employer health plan premiums. The following list of states is current as of July 31, 2016. Contact your State for more information on eligibility –**

<b>ALABAMA – Medicaid</b>	<b>FLORIDA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://myalhipp.com/">http://myalhipp.com/</a> Phone: 1-855-692-5447	Website: <a href="http://flmedicaidprecovery.com/hipp/">http://flmedicaidprecovery.com/hipp/</a> Phone: 1-877-357-3268
<b>ALASKA – Medicaid</b>	<b>GEORGIA – Medicaid</b>
The AK Health Insurance Premium Payment Program Website: <a href="http://myakhipp.com/">http://myakhipp.com/</a> Phone: 1-866-251-4861 Email: <a href="mailto:CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com">CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com</a> Medicaid Eligibility: <a href="http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/medicaid/default.aspx">http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/medicaid/default.aspx</a>	Website: <a href="http://dch.georgia.gov/medicaid">http://dch.georgia.gov/medicaid</a> - Click on Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Phone: 404-656-4507
<b>ARKANSAS – Medicaid</b>	<b>INDIANA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://myarhipp.com/">http://myarhipp.com/</a> Phone: 1-855-MyARHIPP (855-692-7447)	Healthy Indiana Plan for low-income adults 19-64 Website: <a href="http://www.hip.in.gov">http://www.hip.in.gov</a> Phone: 1-877-438-4479 All other Medicaid Website: <a href="http://www.indianamedicaid.com">http://www.indianamedicaid.com</a> Phone 1-800-403-0864

<p align="center"><b>COLORADO – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Medicaid Website: <a href="http://www.colorado.gov/hcpf">http://www.colorado.gov/hcpf</a>  Medicaid Customer Contact Center: 1-800-221-3943</p>	<p align="center"><b>IOWA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/hipp/">http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/hipp/</a>  Phone: 1-888-346-9562</p>
<p align="center"><b>KANSAS – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.kdheks.gov/hcf/">http://www.kdheks.gov/hcf/</a>  Phone: 1-785-296-3512</p>	<p align="center"><b>NEW HAMPSHIRE – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oii/documents/hippapp.pdf">http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oii/documents/hippapp.pdf</a>  Phone: 603-271-5218</p>
<p align="center"><b>KENTUCKY – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://chfs.ky.gov/dms/default.htm">http://chfs.ky.gov/dms/default.htm</a>  Phone: 1-800-635-2570</p>	<p align="center"><b>NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP</b></p> <p>Medicaid Website: <a href="http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/">http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/</a>  Medicaid Phone: 609-631-2392  CHIP Website: <a href="http://www.njfamilycare.org/index.html">http://www.njfamilycare.org/index.html</a>  CHIP Phone: 1-800-701-0710</p>
<p align="center"><b>LOUISIANA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/subhome/1/n/331">http://dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/subhome/1/n/331</a>  Phone: 1-888-695-2447</p>	<p align="center"><b>NEW YORK – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.nyhealth.gov/health_care/medicaid/">http://www.nyhealth.gov/health_care/medicaid/</a>  Phone: 1-800-541-2831</p>
<p align="center"><b>MAINE – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/public-assistance/index.html">http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/public-assistance/index.html</a>  Phone: 1-800-442-6003  TTY: Maine relay 711</p>	<p align="center"><b>NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma">http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma</a>  Phone: 919-855-4100</p>
<p align="center"><b>MASSACHUSETTS – Medicaid and CHIP</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.mass.gov/MassHealth">http://www.mass.gov/MassHealth</a>  Phone: 1-800-462-1120</p>	<p align="center"><b>NORTH DAKOTA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/medicalserv/medicaid/">http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/medicalserv/medicaid/</a>  Phone: 1-844-854-4825</p>
<p align="center"><b>MINNESOTA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://mn.gov/dhs/ma/">http://mn.gov/dhs/ma/</a>  Phone: 1-800-657-3739</p>	<p align="center"><b>OKLAHOMA – Medicaid and CHIP</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.insureoklahoma.org">http://www.insureoklahoma.org</a>  Phone: 1-888-365-3742</p>
<p align="center"><b>MISSOURI – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm">http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm</a>  Phone: 573-751-2005</p>	<p align="center"><b>OREGON – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx">http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx</a>  <a href="http://www.oregonhealthcare.gov/index-es.html">http://www.oregonhealthcare.gov/index-es.html</a>  Phone: 1-800-699-9075</p>
<p align="center"><b>MONTANA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIP">http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIP</a>  Phone: 1-800-694-3084</p>	<p align="center"><b>PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.dhs.pa.gov/hipp">http://www.dhs.pa.gov/hipp</a>  Phone: 1-800-692-7462</p>
<p align="center"><b>NEBRASKA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://dhhs.ne.gov/Children_Family_Services/AccessNebraska/Pages/accessnebraska_index.aspx">http://dhhs.ne.gov/Children_Family_Services/AccessNebraska/Pages/accessnebraska_index.aspx</a>  Phone: 1-855-632-7633</p>	<p align="center"><b>RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/">http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/</a>  Phone: 401-462-5300</p>

<b>NEVADA – Medicaid</b>	<b>SOUTH CAROLINA – Medicaid</b>
Medicaid Website: <a href="http://dwss.nv.gov/">http://dwss.nv.gov/</a> Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900	Website: <a href="http://www.scdhhs.gov">http://www.scdhhs.gov</a> Phone: 1-888-549-0820
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA - Medicaid</b>	<b>WASHINGTON – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://dss.sd.gov">http://dss.sd.gov</a> Phone: 1-888-828-0059	Website: <a href="http://www.hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/program-administration/premium-payment-program">http://www.hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/program-administration/premium-payment-program</a> Phone: 1-800-562-3022 ext. 15473
<b>TEXAS – Medicaid</b>	<b>WEST VIRGINIA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://gethiptexas.com/">http://gethiptexas.com/</a> Phone: 1-800-440-0493	Website: <a href="http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/bms/Medicaid%20Expansion/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/bms/Medicaid%20Expansion/Pages/default.aspx</a> Phone: 1-877-598-5820, HMS Third Party Liability
<b>UTAH – Medicaid and CHIP</b>	<b>WISCONSIN – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Website: Medicaid: <a href="http://health.utah.gov/medicaid">http://health.utah.gov/medicaid</a> CHIP: <a href="http://health.utah.gov/chip">http://health.utah.gov/chip</a> Phone: 1-877-543-7669	Website: <a href="https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p1/p10095.pdf">https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p1/p10095.pdf</a> Phone: 1-800-362-3002
<b>VERMONT– Medicaid</b>	<b>WYOMING – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.greenmountaincare.org/">http://www.greenmountaincare.org/</a> Phone: 1-800-250-8427	Website: <a href="https://wyequalitycare.acs-inc.com/">https://wyequalitycare.acs-inc.com/</a> Phone: 307-777-7531
<b>VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP</b>	
Medicaid Website: <a href="http://www.coverva.org/programs_premium_assistance.cfm">http://www.coverva.org/programs_premium_assistance.cfm</a> Medicaid Phone: 1-800-432-5924 CHIP Website: <a href="http://www.coverva.org/programs_premium_assistance.cfm">http://www.coverva.org/programs_premium_assistance.cfm</a> CHIP Phone: 1-855-242-8282	

To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since July 31, 2016, or for more information on special enrollment rights, contact either:

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

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

### Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) (PRA), no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid Office of Management and

Budget (OMB) control number. The Department notes that a Federal agency cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it is approved by OMB under the PRA, and displays a currently valid OMB control number, and the public is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3507. Also, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if the collection of information does not display a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3512.

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average approximately seven minutes per respondent. Interested parties are encouraged to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Office of Policy and Research, Attention: PRA Clearance Officer, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room N-5718, Washington, DC 20210 or email [ebsa.opr@dol.gov](mailto:ebsa.opr@dol.gov) and reference the OMB Control Number 1210-0137.

OMB Control Number 1210-0137 (expires 12/31/2016)