

## COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE

Under a federal law called COBRA (“Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act”), group health plans of most employers with 20 or more employees are generally required to offer covered Employees, their covered Spouses and Dependents the opportunity to make separate elections to extend group health coverage temporarily at group rates after coverage under the Plan would otherwise cease. This extension is called COBRA continuation coverage. Evidence of your good health is not required for this extension. Domestic partners should contact the Plan Administrator to discuss eligibility for continuation coverage.

As an Employee covered under the Plan, you may have the right to elect COBRA continuation coverage if you lose health coverage (or premium payments or contributions for health coverage increase) because:

- Your hours of employment are reduced;
- Your employment is terminated for reasons other than gross misconduct; or
- The Employer starts bankruptcy proceedings under Title XI, if you are a retired employee.

Your Spouse may elect continuation health coverage if he or she loses health coverage (or premium payments or contributions for health coverage increase) under the Plan because:

- Your employment is terminated for reasons other than gross misconduct, or your hours of employment are reduced;
- You die;
- You divorce or become legally separated;
- You become enrolled in Medicare (Part A or B); or
- The Employer starts bankruptcy proceedings under Title XI, and you are retired.

Your dependent child may continue health coverage if he or she loses health coverage (or premium payments or contributions for health coverage increase) under the Plan because:

- He or she loses Dependent status under the Plan;
- Your employment is terminated for reasons other than gross misconduct, or your hours of employment are reduced;
- You die;
- You and your Spouse divorce or become legally separated;
- You become enrolled in Medicare (Part A or B); or
- The Employer starts bankruptcy proceedings under Title XI, and you are retired.

A child born to, adopted by, or placed for adoption with the covered Employee during the continuation coverage period may also be entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage. Such child’s coverage period will be determined according to the date of the qualifying event that gave rise to the covered Employee’s COBRA coverage. You must notify the Plan Administrator within 30 days and provide supporting documentation.

Under COBRA, you (or your Spouse or dependent child, if applicable) must notify the Plan Administrator by filing a Change of Status notice with the Plan Administrator within 60 days after:

- You and your Spouse are divorced or legally separated; or
- One of your children loses Dependent status under the Plan.

You (or your Spouse or dependent child, if applicable) will then be notified of the right to elect continuation health coverage and the cost to do so. The deadline for electing continuation health coverage is 60 days after the date the Plan ceases to cover you or your Spouse or dependent child, or 60 days from the date you, your Spouse, or dependent child are notified of your COBRA election rights, whichever is later.

If you (or your Spouse or dependent children, if applicable) do not elect continuation coverage, your health coverage will stop. If you (or your Spouse or dependent children, if applicable) choose continuation health coverage, the Plan will provide health coverage identical to that available to similarly situated active employees, including the opportunity to choose among options available during an open enrollment period. However, you (or your Spouse or dependent child, if applicable) must pay for this coverage. The COBRA premium will not exceed 102% of the total premium paid by you and your Employer for that level of coverage. There is a grace period of at least 30 days for payment of the regularly scheduled premium.

If the original qualifying event causing the loss of health coverage was the death of the Employee, divorce, legal separation, Medicare entitlement, or loss of “dependent status” of a dependent child under the Plan, then each qualified beneficiary will have the opportunity to elect 36 months of continuation coverage from the date of the qualifying event. If you (or your Spouse or dependent child, if applicable) lose health coverage under the Plan because your employment was terminated or your hours of employment were reduced (and not immediately followed by termination of employment), then the maximum continuation period will be 18 months from the date of the qualifying event. (If coverage is lost at a date later than the date of the qualifying event and the Plan measures the maximum coverage period and notice period from the date of health coverage loss, then the maximum continuation period will be 18 months from the date of health coverage loss.) If during those 18 months, another qualifying event takes place that entitles your Spouse (or dependent child, if applicable) to continuation health coverage, your Spouse’s continuation coverage (or dependent child’s continuation coverage, if applicable) may be extended by another 18 months. You must make sure that the Plan Administrator/COBRA Administrator is notified of the second qualifying event within 60 days of the second qualifying event. In no event will your Spouse’s health continuation coverage (or your dependent child’s health continuation coverage, if applicable) extend for more than a total of 36 months from the date of the initial event. If your covered Spouse and/or dependent child lose coverage due to your termination of employment (for reasons other than gross misconduct) or reduction in hours and such loss occurs within 18 months after you enroll in Medicare, then the maximum continuation coverage period for your Spouse and dependent child shall be 36 months from the date you enrolled in Medicare.

Disability is a special issue. If the Social Security Administration determines that you (or your Spouse or dependent child, if applicable) are disabled at any time during the first 60 days of the continuation health coverage period, or in the case of a child born to, adopted by or placed for

adoption with a covered Employee during a COBRA coverage period, during the first 60 days after a child's birth, adoption or placement for adoption, then your continuation coverage period as well as your Spouse's and any Dependent's continuation periods may be extended from 18 months to 29 months. The Employer may charge up to 150% of the total premium paid by you and the Employer during this extended period. To qualify, you (or your Spouse or dependent child, if applicable) must notify the Plan Administrator in writing within 60 days of the date of the Social Security Administration determination and during the initial 18 month continuation coverage period. Your written notice must include your name, Social Security Number, and indicate you have continuation coverage under the Plan. If there is a final determination that the qualified beneficiary is no longer disabled, the Plan Administrator must be notified within 30 days of the determination by the qualified beneficiary, and any health coverage extended beyond the maximum that would otherwise apply will be terminated for all qualified beneficiaries.

In certain circumstances, bankruptcy under Title XI of the Employer will entitle you to continuation health coverage. If the qualifying event causing the loss of health coverage was the bankruptcy of the Employer under Title XI, then each covered retired employee will have the opportunity to receive continuation health coverage until the death of the covered retired employee. Covered spouses, surviving spouses and dependents of the covered retired employee will have the opportunity to elect continuation health coverage for a period that will terminate 36 months following the death of the retired employee or upon the death of the qualified beneficiary, whichever is earlier.

Your right to continuation health coverage (or your Spouse's or dependent child's right, if applicable) under COBRA ends if:

- The Employer ceases to provide group health coverage to any of its employees;
- You (or your Spouse or dependent child, if applicable) fail to pay the premium within 30 days after its monthly due date;
- You (or your Spouse or dependent child, if applicable) become covered, after the date of your COBRA election, under another group health plan, including a governmental plan, that does not contain any exclusion or limitation with respect to any preexisting condition of such qualified beneficiary (other than an exclusion or limitation that may be disregarded under the law);
- You (or your Spouse or dependent child, if applicable) become entitled to Medicare after the date of the COBRA election;
- You (or your Spouse or dependent child, if applicable) have extended continuation coverage due to a disability and then you are determined by the Social Security Administration to be no longer disabled;
- The maximum required COBRA continuation period expires; or
- For such cause, such as fraudulent claim submission, that would result in termination of coverage for similarly situated active employees.

In order to protect your family's rights, you should keep the Plan Administrator/COBRA Administrator informed of any changes in the addresses of your family members. You should also keep a copy of any notices you send the Plan or COBRA Administrator.

Instead of enrolling in COBRA continuation coverage, there may be other coverage options for you and your family through the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicaid, 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).

Additional continuation rights may apply under state law. Please contact the Plan Administrator for further information.