

# Town of Salem



**2026**

**ANNUAL EMPLOYEE BENEFIT NOTICES**

## Important Notice from Town of Salem 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 Town of Salem (the “Plan Sponsor”) 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) The Plan Sponsor has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Town of Salem Group Health Plan is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage. Because your existing coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.

### **When Can You Join A Medicare Drug Plan?**

You can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15th to December 7th.

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

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

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your current Plan Sponsor coverage may be affected. Moreover, if you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Plan Sponsor coverage, be aware that you and your dependents may not be able to get this coverage back.

Please contact the person listed at the end of this notice for more information about what happens to your coverage if you enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription Drug Plan.

## **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 Plan Sponsor and don't join a Medicare drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan later.

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the Medicare base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without creditable coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

## **For More Information about This Notice or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage...**

Contact the person listed below for further information. **NOTE:** You'll get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this coverage through the Plan Sponsor changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

## **For More Information about Your Options under Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage...**

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is in the "Medicare & You" handbook. You'll get a copy of the handbook

in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare drug plans.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

- Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of your copy of the “Medicare & You” handbook for their telephone number) for personalized help Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

**Remember: Keep this Creditable Coverage notice. If you decide to join one of the Medicare drug plans, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show whether or not you have maintained creditable coverage and, therefore, whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).**

Compliance Date:	10/15/2025
Webpage post date:	10/8/2025
Name of Entity/Sender:	Town of Salem, NH
Contact-Position/Office:	Human Resources
Address:	33 Geremonty Drive, Salem NH
Phone Number:	603-890-2070

## CHIPRA/CHIP Notice

### 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 March 17, 2025. Contact your State for more information on eligibility –**

ALABAMA – Medicaid	ALASKA – Medicaid
Website: <a href="http://myalhipp.com/">http://myalhipp.com/</a> Phone: 1-855-692-5447	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="https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/default.aspx">https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/default.aspx</a>
ARKANSAS – Medicaid	CALIFORNIA – Medicaid
Website: <a href="http://myarhipp.com/">http://myarhipp.com/</a> Phone: 1-855-MyARHIPP (855-692-7447)	Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program Website: <a href="http://dhcs.ca.gov/hipp">http://dhcs.ca.gov/hipp</a> Phone: 916-445-8322 Fax: 916-440-5676 Email: <a href="mailto:hipp@dhcs.ca.gov">hipp@dhcs.ca.gov</a>
COLORADO – Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) & Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+)	FLORIDA – Medicaid

<p>Health First Colorado Website:  <a href="https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/">https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/</a>  Health First Colorado Member Contact Center:  1-800-221-3943/State Relay 711  CHP+: <a href="https://hcpf.colorado.gov/child-health-plan-plus">https://hcpf.colorado.gov/child-health-plan-plus</a>  CHP+ Customer Service: 1-800-359-1991/State Relay 711  Health Insurance Buy-In Program  (HIBI): <a href="https://www.mycohibi.com/">https://www.mycohibi.com/</a>  HIBI Customer Service: 1-855-692-6442</p>	<p>Website:  <a href="https://www.flmedicaidtprecovery.com/flmedicaidtprecovery.com/hipp/index.html">https://www.flmedicaidtprecovery.com/flmedicaidtprecovery.com/hipp/index.html</a>  Phone: 1-877-357-3268</p>
GEORGIA – Medicaid	INDIANA – Medicaid
<p>GA HIPP Website: <a href="https://medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp">https://medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp</a>  Phone: 678-564-1162, Press 1  GA CHIPRA Website:  <a href="https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/childrens-health-insurance-program-reauthorization-act-2009-chipra">https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/childrens-health-insurance-program-reauthorization-act-2009-chipra</a>  Phone: 678-564-1162, Press 2</p>	<p>Health Insurance Premium Payment Program  All other Medicaid  Website: <a href="https://www.in.gov/medicaid/">https://www.in.gov/medicaid/</a>  <a href="http://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/">http://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/</a>  Family and Social Services Administration  Phone: 1-800-403-0864  Member Services Phone: 1-800-457-4584</p>
IOWA – Medicaid and CHIP (Hawki)	KANSAS – Medicaid
<p>Medicaid Website:  <a href="#">Iowa Medicaid   Health &amp; Human Services</a>  Medicaid Phone: 1-800-338-8366  Hawki Website:  <a href="#">Hawki - Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa   Health &amp; Human Services</a>  Hawki Phone: 1-800-257-8563  HIPP Website: <a href="#">Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP)   Health &amp; Human Services (iowa.gov)</a>  HIPP Phone: 1-888-346-9562</p>	<p>Website: <a href="https://www.kancare.ks.gov/">https://www.kancare.ks.gov/</a>  Phone: 1-800-792-4884  HIPP Phone: 1-800-967-4660</p>
KENTUCKY – Medicaid	LOUISIANA – Medicaid
<p>Kentucky Integrated Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (KI-HIPP) Website:  <a href="https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.aspx">https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.aspx</a>  Phone: 1-855-459-6328  Email: <a href="mailto:KIHIPPPROGRAM@ky.gov">KIHIPPPROGRAM@ky.gov</a>  KCHIP Website: <a href="https://kynect.ky.gov">https://kynect.ky.gov</a>  Phone: 1-877-524-4718  Kentucky Medicaid Website:  <a href="https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms">https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms</a></p>	<p>Website: <a href="http://www.medicicaid.la.gov">www.medicicaid.la.gov</a> or <a href="http://www.ldh.la.gov/la hipp">www.ldh.la.gov/la hipp</a>  Phone: 1-888-342-6207 (Medicaid hotline) or 1-855-618-5488 (LaHIPP)</p>
MAINE – Medicaid	MASSACHUSETTS – Medicaid and CHIP
<p>Enrollment Website:  <a href="https://www.mymaineconnection.gov/benefits/s/?language=en_US">https://www.mymaineconnection.gov/benefits/s/?language=en_US</a>  Phone: 1-800-442-6003  TTY: Maine relay 711  Private Health Insurance Premium Webpage:  <a href="https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms">https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms</a>  Phone: 1-800-977-6740  TTY: Maine relay 711</p>	<p>Website: <a href="https://www.mass.gov/masshealth/pa">https://www.mass.gov/masshealth/pa</a>  Phone: 1-800-862-4840  TTY: 711  Email: <a href="mailto:masspremassistance@accenture.com">masspremassistance@accenture.com</a></p>
MINNESOTA – Medicaid	MISSOURI – Medicaid

Website: <a href="https://mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage/">https://mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage/</a> Phone: 1-800-657-3672	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
<b>MONTANA – Medicaid</b>	<b>NEBRASKA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP">http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP</a> Phone: 1-800-694-3084 Email: <a href="mailto:HHSHIPPProgram@mt.gov">HHSHIPPProgram@mt.gov</a>	Website: <a href="http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov">http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov</a> Phone: 1-855-632-7633 Lincoln: 402-473-7000 Omaha: 402-595-1178
<b>NEVADA – Medicaid</b>	<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE – Medicaid</b>
Medicaid Website: <a href="http://dhcfp.nv.gov">http://dhcfp.nv.gov</a> Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900	Website: <a href="https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program">https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program</a> Phone: 603-271-5218 Toll free number for the HIPP program: 1-800-852-3345, ext. 15218 Email: <a href="mailto:DHHS.ThirdPartyLiabi@dhhs.nh.gov">DHHS.ThirdPartyLiabi@dhhs.nh.gov</a>
<b>NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP</b>	<b>NEW YORK – Medicaid</b>
Medicaid Website: <a href="http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/">http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/</a> Phone: 1-800-356-1561 CHIP Premium Assistance 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 (TTY: 711)	Website: <a href="https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/">https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/</a> Phone: 1-800-541-2831
<b>NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid</b>	<b>NORTH DAKOTA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/">https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/</a> Phone: 919-855-4100	Website: <a href="https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare">https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare</a> Phone: 1-844-854-4825
<b>OKLAHOMA – Medicaid and CHIP</b>	<b>OREGON – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.insureoklahoma.org">http://www.insureoklahoma.org</a> Phone: 1-888-365-3742	Website: <a href="http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx">http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx</a> Phone: 1-800-699-9075
<b>PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid and CHIP</b>	<b>RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Website: <a href="https://www.pa.gov/en/services/dhs/apply-for-medicaid-health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp.html">https://www.pa.gov/en/services/dhs/apply-for-medicaid-health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp.html</a> Phone: 1-800-692-7462 CHIP Website: <a href="http://Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (pa.gov)">Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (pa.gov)</a> CHIP Phone: 1-800-986-KIDS (5437)	Website: <a href="http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/">http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/</a> Phone: 1-855-697-4347, or 401-462-0311 (Direct Rlte Share Line)
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA – Medicaid</b>	<b>SOUTH DAKOTA - Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="https://www.scdhhs.gov">https://www.scdhhs.gov</a> Phone: 1-888-549-0820	Website: <a href="http://dss.sd.gov">http://dss.sd.gov</a> Phone: 1-888-828-0059
<b>TEXAS – Medicaid</b>	<b>UTAH – Medicaid and CHIP</b>

<p>Website: <a href="#">Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program   Texas Health and Human Services</a>  Phone: 1-800-440-0493</p>	<p>Utah's Premium Partnership for Health Insurance (UPP)  Website: <a href="https://medicaid.utah.gov/upp/">https://medicaid.utah.gov/upp/</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:upp@utah.gov">upp@utah.gov</a>  Phone: 1-888-222-2542  Adult Expansion Website:  <a href="https://medicaid.utah.gov/expansion/">https://medicaid.utah.gov/expansion/</a>  Utah Medicaid Buyout Program Website:  <a href="https://medicaid.utah.gov/buyout-program/">https://medicaid.utah.gov/buyout-program/</a>  CHIP Website: <a href="https://chip.utah.gov/">https://chip.utah.gov/</a></p>
VERMONT– Medicaid	VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP
<p>Website: <a href="#">Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program   Department of Vermont Health Access</a>  Phone: 1-800-250-8427</p>	<p>Website: <a href="https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/famis-select">https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/famis-select</a>  <a href="https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-programs">https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-programs</a>  Medicaid/CHIP Phone: 1-800-432-5924</p>
WASHINGTON – Medicaid	WEST VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP
<p>Website: <a href="https://www.hca.wa.gov/">https://www.hca.wa.gov/</a>  Phone: 1-800-562-3022</p>	<p>Website: <a href="https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/">https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/</a>  <a href="http://mywvhipp.com/">http://mywvhipp.com/</a>  Medicaid Phone: 304-558-1700  CHIP Toll-free phone: 1-855-MyWVHIPP (1-855-699-8447)</p>
WISCONSIN – Medicaid and CHIP	WYOMING – Medicaid
<p>Website:  <a href="https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm">https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm</a>  Phone: 1-800-362-3002</p>	<p>Website:  <a href="https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/programs-and-eligibility/">https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/programs-and-eligibility/</a>  Phone: 1-800-251-1269</p>

To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since March 17, 2025, 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



## Notice of Availability of HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

To: Participants in Cigna's Group Medical Plan

From: **Human Resource Department**

Re: Availability of Notice of Privacy Practices

CIGNA maintains a Notice of Privacy Practices that provides information to individuals whose protected health information (PHI) will be used or maintained by the Plan. If you would like a copy of the Plan's Notice of Privacy Practices, please contact CIGNA's toll-free Member Service telephone at 800-244-6224.

## Annual Notice of Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act

Do you know that your plan, as required by the Women's Health and Cancer Right Act of 1998, provides benefits for mastectomy-related services, including all stages of reconstruction and surgery to achieve symmetry between the breasts, prostheses and treatment for complications resulting from a mastectomy, including lymphedema? Call your plan administrator at the Town of Salem, Human Resources at 603-890-2070 for more information.

## Notice of Special Enrollment Rights

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 no later than 30 days after your 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 no later than 30 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

Effective April 1, 2009, if either of the following two events occur, you will have *60 days* from the date of the event to request enrollment in your employer's plan:

- Your dependents lose Medicaid or CHIP coverage because they are no longer eligible.
- Your dependents become eligible for a state's premium assistance program.

To take advantage of special enrollment rights, you must experience a qualifying event *and* provide the employer plan with timely notice of the event and your enrollment request.

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact the Town of Salem, Human Resource Department at (603) 890-2070.

# General COBRA Notice

## General Notice of COBRA Continuation Coverage Rights

### Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA

#### Introduction

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."

### **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;
- 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 after the qualifying event occurs. You must provide this notice to Human Resources at Town of Salem, 33 Geremonty Drive, Salem, NH 03079 or by calling 603-890-2070.

## **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.

### ***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), 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<sup>1</sup> 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>.

### **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

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.medicare.gov/basics/get-started-with-medicare/sign-up/how-do-i-sign-up-for-medicare>.

[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**

Human Resources

Town of Salem

33 Geremonty Drive

Salem, NH 03079