

**East Central College  
Single Employer Welfare Benefit Plan and Trust  
2018 Annual Notices**

Please review the following notices about your plan coverage:

**HIPAA Special Enrollment Rights ..... 2**  
**Premium Assistance Under Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)..... 3**  
**Newborn and Mother’s Health Protection Act Notice ..... 6**  
**Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act Notice ..... 6**  
**Choice of Primary Care Physician..... 6**  
**Access to Obstetrical and Gynecological (ObGyn) Care ..... 6**  
**Availability of Notice of Privacy Practices..... 6**  
**Medicare Part D Creditable Coverage Notice—Blue Access PPO and Lumenos Health Savings Account..... 7**  
**Medicare Part D Non-Creditable Coverage Notice—Preventative Treatment Benefit Plan ..... 9**  
**Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA ..... 11**

**If you (and/or your dependents) have Medicare or will become eligible for Medicare in the next 12 months, a federal law gives you choices about your prescription drug coverage.**

**Please see pages 7-10 for more details.**

## **HIPAA 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 towards your or your dependents' other coverage). However, you must request enrollment within 31 calendar 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 within 31 calendar days after the marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption.

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact the HR Specialist at 636-584-6711.

The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 added the following two special enrollment opportunities:

- The employee's or dependent's Medicaid or CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) coverage is terminated as a result of loss of eligibility; or
- The employee or dependent becomes eligible for a premium assistance subsidy under Medicaid or CHIP.

It is your responsibility to notify the Benefits Coordinator within 60 calendar days of the loss of Medicaid or CHIP coverage, or within 60 calendar days of when eligibility for premium assistance under Medicaid or CHIP is determined. More information on CHIP is provided below.

## 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 August 10, 2017. 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.in.gov/fssa/hip/">http://www.in.gov/fssa/hip/</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
<b>COLORADO – Health First Colorado (Colorado’s Medicaid Program) &amp; Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+)</b>	<b>IOWA – Medicaid</b>
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="http://Colorado.gov/HCPF/Child-Health-Plan-Plus">Colorado.gov/HCPF/Child-Health-Plan-Plus</a> CHP+ Customer Service: 1-800-359-1991/ State Relay 711	Website: <a href="http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/medicaid-a-to-z/hipp">http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/medicaid-a-to-z/hipp</a> Phone: 1-888-346-9562

<b>KANSAS – Medicaid</b>	<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.kdheks.gov/hcf/">http://www.kdheks.gov/hcf/</a> Phone: 1-785-296-3512	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
<b>KENTUCKY – Medicaid</b>	<b>NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Website: <a href="http://chfs.ky.gov/dms/default.htm">http://chfs.ky.gov/dms/default.htm</a> Phone: 1-800-635-2570	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
<b>LOUISIANA – Medicaid</b>	<b>NEW YORK – Medicaid</b>
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	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>MAINE – Medicaid</b>	<b>NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/of/public-assistance/index.html">http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/of/public-assistance/index.html</a> Phone: 1-800-442-6003 TTY: Maine relay 711	Website: <a href="https://dma.ncdhhs.gov/">https://dma.ncdhhs.gov/</a> Phone: 919-855-4100
<b>MASSACHUSETTS – Medicaid and CHIP</b>	<b>NORTH DAKOTA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/masshealth/">http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/masshealth/</a> Phone: 1-800-862-4840	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
<b>MINNESOTA – Medicaid</b>	<b>OKLAHOMA – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Website: <a href="http://mn.gov/dhs/people-serve/seniors/health-care/health-care-programs/programs-and-services/medical-assistance.jsp">http://mn.gov/dhs/people-serve/seniors/health-care/health-care-programs/programs-and-services/medical-assistance.jsp</a> Phone: 1-800-657-3739	Website: <a href="http://www.insureoklahoma.org">http://www.insureoklahoma.org</a> Phone: 1-888-365-3742
<b>MISSOURI – Medicaid</b>	<b>OREGON – Medicaid</b>
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	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
<b>MONTANA – Medicaid</b>	<b>PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIP">http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIP</a> Phone: 1-800-694-3084	Website: <a href="http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/medicalassistance/healthinsurancepremiumpaymenthipprogram/index.htm">http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/medicalassistance/healthinsurancepremiumpaymenthipprogram/index.htm</a> Phone: 1-800-692-7462
<b>NEBRASKA – Medicaid</b>	<b>RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov">http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov</a> Phone: (855) 632-7633 Lincoln: (402) 473-7000 Omaha: (402) 595-1178	Website: <a href="http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/">http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/</a> Phone: 855-697-4347
<b>NEVADA – Medicaid</b>	<b>SOUTH CAROLINA – Medicaid</b>
Medicaid Website: <a href="https://dwss.nv.gov/">https://dwss.nv.gov/</a> Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900	Website: <a href="https://www.scdhhs.gov">https://www.scdhhs.gov</a> Phone: 1-888-549-0820

<p align="center"><b>SOUTH DAKOTA - Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://dss.sd.gov">http://dss.sd.gov</a>  Phone: 1-888-828-0059</p>	<p align="center"><b>WASHINGTON – Medicaid</b></p> <p>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</p>
<p align="center"><b>TEXAS – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://gethipptexas.com/">http://gethipptexas.com/</a>  Phone: 1-800-440-0493</p>	<p align="center"><b>WEST VIRGINIA – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://mywvhipp.com/">http://mywvhipp.com/</a>  Toll-free phone: 1-855-MyWVHIPP (1-855-699-8447)</p>
<p align="center"><b>UTAH – Medicaid and CHIP</b></p> <p>Medicaid Website: <a href="https://medicaid.utah.gov/">https://medicaid.utah.gov/</a>  CHIP Website: <a href="http://health.utah.gov/chip">http://health.utah.gov/chip</a>  Phone: 1-877-543-7669</p>	<p align="center"><b>WISCONSIN – Medicaid and CHIP</b></p> <p>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</p>
<p align="center"><b>VERMONT– Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.greenmountaincare.org/">http://www.greenmountaincare.org/</a>  Phone: 1-800-250-8427</p>	<p align="center"><b>WYOMING – Medicaid</b></p> <p>Website: <a href="https://wyequalitycare.acs-inc.com/">https://wyequalitycare.acs-inc.com/</a>  Phone: 307-777-7531</p>
<p align="center"><b>VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP</b></p> <p>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</p>	

To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since August 10, 2017, 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

## **Newborn and Mother's Health Protection Act Notice**

The Blue Access PPO and Lumenos Health Savings Accounts plans 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). 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). No coverage is provided childbirth under the Preventative Treatment Benefit Plan (although some preventive care during pregnancy may be covered). Please refer to the Health Benefit Booklet for your plan to get details on coverage under the specific plan in which you are enrolled.

## **Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act Notice**

Do you know that the Blue Access PPO and Lumenos Health Savings Accounts plans, as required by the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998, provide 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? Call the HR Specialist at 636-584-6711 for more information. Please note that no mastectomy-related coverage is provided by the Preventative Treatment Benefit Plan.

## **Choice of Primary Care Physician**

The Blue Access PPO and Lumenos Health Savings Accounts plans allow the designation of a Primary Care Physician (PCP). You have the right to designate any PCP who participates in the applicable Network and who is available to accept you or your family members.

For information on how to select a PCP under one of those plans, and for a list of PCPs, contact the telephone number on the back of your Identification card or refer to the website, [www.anthem.com](http://www.anthem.com). For children, you may designate a pediatrician as the PCP.

## **Access to Obstetrical and Gynecological (ObGyn) Care**

You do not need prior authorization from any of the plans or from any other person (including a PCP) in order to obtain access to obstetrical or gynecological care from a health care professional in the applicable plan's 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 or following a pre-approved treatment plan. For a list of participating health care professionals who specialize in obstetrics or gynecology, contact the telephone number or website on your Identification Card.

## **Availability of Notice of Privacy Practices**

East Central College's group health plan (Plan) maintains a Notices 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 the HR Specialist at 636-584-6711

# **Medicare Part D Creditable Coverage Notice—Blue Access PPO and Lumenos Health Savings Account**

## **Important Notice from East Central College 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 East Central College 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. East Central College has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Blue Access PPO and Lumenos Health Savings Account plans 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 East Central College coverage will not be affected. You can keep the Blue Access PPO plan coverage and this plan will coordinate with Part D coverage for those individuals for whom Medicare is the primary payer.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current East Central College coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will only be able to get this coverage back at the next open enrollment period or upon the occurrence of a special enrollment event.

### **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 East Central College 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 East Central College at the number 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 East Central College changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

**For More Information About Your Options Under Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage...**

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is in the "Medicare & You" handbook. You'll get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare drug plans.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

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

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

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

Date:	12/20/2017
Name of Entity/Sender:	East Central College
Address:	1964 Prairie Dell Road, Union, Mo. 63084
Phone Number:	636-584-6711



# **Medicare Part D Non-Creditable Coverage Notice— Preventative Treatment Benefit Plan**

## **Important Notice From East Central College 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 East Central College 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. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.

There are three 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. East Central College has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Preventative Treatment Benefit Plan is, on average for all plan participants, NOT expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays. Therefore, your coverage is considered Non-Creditable Coverage. This is important because, most likely, you will get more help with your drug costs if you join a Medicare drug plan, than if you only have prescription drug coverage from the Preventative Treatment Benefit Plan. This also is important because it may mean that you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you do not join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible.
3. You can keep your current coverage with the Preventative Treatment Benefit Plan. However, because your coverage is non-creditable, you have decisions to make about Medicare prescription drug coverage that may affect how much you pay for that coverage, depending on if and when you join a drug plan. When you make your decision, you should compare your current coverage, including what drugs are covered, with the coverage and cost of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. Read this notice carefully - it explains your options.

### **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 decide to drop your current coverage with the East Central College Preventative Treatment Benefit Plan, since it is employer/union sponsored group coverage, you will be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan; however you also may pay a higher premium (a penalty) because you did not have creditable coverage under the Preventative Treatment Benefit Plan.

If you were previously enrolled in the Blue Access PPO or Lumenos Health Savings Account plan and are losing creditable prescription drug coverage under that plan, you are also eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan.

### **When Will You Pay A Higher Premium (Penalty) To Join A Medicare Drug Plan?**

Since the coverage under the Preventative Treatment Benefit Plan, is not creditable, depending on how long you go without creditable prescription drug coverage you may pay a penalty to join a Medicare drug plan.

Starting with the end of the last month that you were first eligible to join a Medicare drug plan but didn't join, if you go 63 continuous days or longer without prescription drug coverage that's creditable, 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 (penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

### **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 East Central College coverage will not be affected. You can keep the Blue Access PPO plan coverage and this plan will coordinate with Part D coverage for those individuals for whom Medicare is the primary payer.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current East Central College coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will only be able to get this coverage back at the next open enrollment period or upon the occurrence of a special enrollment event.

### **For More Information About This Notice Or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage...**

Contact East Central College at the number 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 East Central College 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).

Date:	12/20/2017
Name of Entity/Sender:	East Central College
Address:	1964 Prairie Dell Road, Union, Mo. 63084
Phone Number:	636-584-6711

# Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA

## Introduction

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 Benefits Coordinator.

**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; 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 after the qualifying event occurs. You must provide this notice to: HR Specialist, East Central College, 1964 Prairie Dell Road, Union, Mo. 63084 (636) 584-6711**

### **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, 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).

### **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**

Wendy Landwehr  
HR Specialist  
East Central College  
1964 Prairie Dell Road  
Union, Mo. 63084  
(636) 584-6711