



MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT

***Group Insurance
Summary Description***

Effective January 1, 2018

Revised May 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Purpose of the Plan | 3 |
| Benefits Available | 3 |
| Eligibility | 4 |
| Grandfathered Domestic Partner Benefits | 5 |
| Enrollment..... | 6 |
| Termination of County Employment | 7 |
| Failure to Submit an Election Form | 7 |
| Changing Your Benefit Elections | 7 |
| Missed Allocations..... | 10 |
| Leave of Absence | 10 |
| Continuation of Coverage (COBRA)..... | 11 |
| In the Event of Your Death (as an Active Employee)..... | 14 |
| Tax Advantage | 15 |
| Your Social Security Benefit..... | 15 |
| Continuation of the Plan..... | 15 |
| Claims and Appeals | 16 |
| Plan Termination..... | 16 |
| Plan Document..... | 16 |
| Group Insurance Benefits for Retired Employees..... | 16 |
| • Eligibility (before July 1, 2011)..... | 17 |
| • Cost Sharing (before July 1, 2011)..... | 18 |
| • Eligibility (on or after July 1, 2011) | 19 |
| • Cost Sharing (on or after July 1, 2011)..... | 20 |
| • In the Event You Return to Work for the County | 21 |
| • In the Event of Your Death (after Retirement)..... | 21 |
| • Benefits Available..... | 21 |
| • Electing Your Benefits at Retirement | 21 |
| • Retiree Term Life Insurance..... | 22 |
| • Dependent Life Insurance | 23 |
| • Optional Life Insurance..... | 23 |
| • Medicare..... | 24 |
| • Medicare Part D-Prescription Drug..... | 24 |
| Addendum..... | 26 |
| Current Benefits and Coverage Options Offered under the Plan | 27 |
| Benefit Highlights..... | 28 |
| • Basic Life Insurance..... | 28 |
| • LTD1 for ERS Members | 29 |
| • Medical Plans..... | 30 |
| • Medical Plan Comparison Chart..... | 31 |
| • Dental | 34 |
| • Vision | 36 |
| • Discount Vision for Retirees and COBRA..... | 38 |
| • Optional Life Insurance..... | 38 |
| • Dependent Life Insurance | 39 |
| • Prescription (Rx) | 39 |
| • Flexible Spending Accounts..... | 43 |
| • Proof of Eligibility Requirements for Dependents..... | 45 |
| HIPAA Privacy Notice..... | 46 |
| Complaints..... | 53 |
| Contact..... | 53 |
| Notice of Creditable Coverage..... | 53 |
| Notice of Grandfathered Health Plan Status..... | 56 |
| Women’s Health and Cancer Act of 1998..... | 56 |
| Newborns’ and Mothers’ Health Protection Act of 1996..... | 56 |

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The Group Insurance Plan (the "Plan"), for eligible employees and eligible retirees of Montgomery County, is comprised of benefit programs that allow you to design a personalized plan that best meets your needs. In addition, federal law, through Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code, permits the County to offer certain benefits on a tax-favored (before-tax) basis to employees.

BENEFITS AVAILABLE

As an eligible permanent full or part time employee of Montgomery County Government, you must have the following basic benefits, which you pay for through after-tax pay deductions:

- Basic term life, accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D), and business travel accident (BTA) insurance. Life insurance is optional for Circuit Court judges.
- Long term disability (LTD1) for full-time members of the Employees' Retirement System (ERS).

Please note:

- *Part-time employees are not eligible for LTD1.*
- *Full Time employees of participating agencies who are members of the ERS may be eligible for LTD1. Contact your employer for more information.*

You may elect to purchase other life insurance benefits through after-tax pay deductions:

- Optional term life and AD&D insurance
- Dependent life insurance

In addition to the above basic benefits, you may also elect to pay for the following optional benefits through before-tax pay reductions:

- Medical
- Dental
- Vision
- Prescription drugs
- Health care flexible spending account
- Dependent care flexible spending account

If you are an employee of a Participating Agency you should contact your employer's Office of Human Resources (OHR) for information on the eligibility and enrollment applicable to you under the Montgomery County Plan.

If you are full scope temporary employee of the County, you are eligible to elect optional benefits 90 days after your most current date of hire. You will be responsible for 100% of the premium. You are not eligible for the Basic Benefits.

The benefits available under the Plan are delivered through various providers, each with its own separate rules governing coverage and administration. These rules are explained in more detail in the individual benefit booklets. Copies are available from the OHR Health Insurance Team or online at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HR/Benefits/HealthInsurance.html>.

A listing of the individual benefits, as well as the highlights, can be found in the Addendum section.

ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible to participate in the Plan if you are a permanent full-time or part-time employee (who works at least 10 hours per week) or a temporary full-scope employee of the County or an eligible employee of a participating agency (contact your employer for more information). If you are a full-scope temporary employee, you are eligible for medical, dental, vision, and prescription coverage after 90 days of employment. Full Scope temporary employees are not eligible for the after-tax benefits described on page 3 (i.e., any life insurance and LTD) and the flexible spending accounts.

If you are a seasonal or limited scope temporary employee of the County, you are not eligible to participate in the Plan.

You are enrolled in the Plan effective on your date of hire as an eligible employee. However, the effective dates of coverage for the certain benefits may be different and are determined by the terms of the individual benefits.

If your spouse or grandfathered domestic partner is also an employee or retiree of the County or a participating agency, and is eligible in his/her own right to enroll in a County benefit program, you are not restricted as to the benefits or coverage options you may elect (*subject to the note in the Addendum section under Dependent Life Insurance*). It is important, however, that you carefully coordinate your elections for benefits and coverage options with those of your spouse or grandfathered domestic partner

Some of the benefits under the Plan are available for your eligible dependents. These benefits include medical, dental, vision and prescription drug plans. Although individual benefits may define dependent differently, in general, eligible dependents include:

- Your spouse or grandfathered domestic partner (please refer to the separate section on grandfathered domestic partners and tax implications).
- Your children (including the children of your grandfathered domestic partner) until the day of their 26th birthday. The term "children" includes any biological children, any adopted children, and any stepchildren.
- An eligible dependent includes a child for whom you have legal guardianship. The child's coverage may continue until his/her 26th birthday if, before his/her 18th birthday, you had legal guardianship of the child and the child was covered under a County Government health plan before age 18.
- An unmarried child (including an unmarried child of your grandfathered domestic partner) age 26 and older who is incapable of self-support because of a mental or physical disability and who depends on you for support. The child's coverage may continue if the disability began before the day of his/her 26th birthday and the child was covered under a County Government health plan before age 26.

Coverage will continue as long as the disabled child is incapacitated and financially dependent upon you; however, coverage may be otherwise terminated in accordance with the terms of the health plan option. You must provide the County with proof that the child's incapacity and dependency occurred before age 26 although the County's health plan retains the discretion to make the determination. If you change your health plan option, you must again provide the County with proof that the child's incapacity and dependency occurred before age 26 with the County's health plan retaining the discretion to make the determination.

It is your responsibility to notify OHR Health Insurance Team in writing of your child's incapacity and dependency before their 26th birthday. You are responsible for contacting your County health plan in order to receive a determination that your child is disabled prior to their 26th birthday. Health plan forms for determining your child's incapacity and dependency can be obtained from OHR. After your health plan makes its determination, you must submit a copy of the determination to OHR Health Insurance Team.

Proof of eligibility is required before your dependents will have coverage. *See Proof of Eligibility for Dependents in the Addendum section.*

You are responsible for notifying the OHR Health Insurance Team when your dependents are no longer eligible for coverage. If you do not do so, you will be responsible for 100% of the cost of all claims incurred.

GRANDFATHERED DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS

If you established and registered a domestic partnership with the County before June 28, 2016 and your domestic partner was receiving benefits from the Plan, you may continue to cover your domestic partner and eligible children of your domestic partner. If you drop coverage for your domestic partner or children of your domestic partner, they may not be re-enrolled. No new domestic partnerships may be established.

Under which group insurance plans may I continue coverage for my grandfathered domestic partner and my grandfathered domestic partner's eligible dependents?

You may continue to enroll your grandfathered domestic partner and your grandfathered domestic partner's eligible dependents in your medical plan, your prescription plan, your dental plan and your vision plan. The dependent life insurance policy does not allow for coverage of a domestic partner or a partner's dependents.

Please note that, reimbursements cannot be made from your Health Care Flexible Spending Account of expenses incurred by your grandfathered domestic partner or your grandfathered partner's eligible dependents, if they are not your legal tax dependents. This also applies to the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account (in addition to other requirements).

What are the tax implications?

If you cover dependents who do not qualify as tax dependents under the Internal Revenue Code, the

value of the County's contribution toward that coverage is considered taxable wages and is also subject to tax withholding. This is *imputed income*. In addition, active employees will have to pay a portion of the group insurance costs with after tax deductions.

The County assumes that neither your grandfathered domestic partner nor your grandfathered partner's eligible dependents qualify as tax dependents, unless you provide acceptable documentation.

For more information, contact the OHR Health Insurance Team.

What if my grandfathered domestic partnership ends?

Should your relationship with your grandfathered domestic partner end, or you no longer meet the domestic partnership requirements, the grandfathered domestic partner and the grandfathered domestic partner's eligible dependents are no longer eligible for coverage under Montgomery County's group insurance plans. You must notify the OHR Health Insurance Team (on an approved Statement of Dissolution of Domestic Partnership form) within 60 days of the termination event. Benefits will terminate and the grandfathered domestic partner and the grandfathered domestic partner's eligible dependents may be able to continue their health coverage under COBRA.

Same Sex Spouse

If you are legally married to your same-sex spouse, you will be treated for tax purposes in the same manner as if your spouse were the opposite sex. You will pay for any spousal or family coverage, for eligible dependents, on a pre-tax basis and will not have imputed income.

ENROLLMENT

To enroll in the Plan, you must elect the benefits.

Each year, the County has an Open Enrollment period during which you may elect benefits for the upcoming calendar year. This enrollment period usually begins in late September/early October and ends in mid-October. During Open Enrollment, you elect your benefits for the upcoming calendar year. Your election also serves as your authorization for after-tax pay deductions and before-tax pay reductions for the benefits you elect.

Should you become eligible for the Plan during the year (e.g., a newly hired employee), you will be provided material to elect your benefits for the remainder of the year. Generally, your elections will not be effective until you have submitted a completed election form along with the required supporting documentation to the OHR Health Insurance Team.

Pay deductions and/or pay reductions applicable to your benefit elections will commence on a non-pro rated basis as soon as practicable, without regard to the pay period.

If you are a full-scope temporary employee, you must pay for your benefits on an after-tax basis and you must pay the County directly for the cost of your benefits. The cost will not be deducted from your pay.

TERMINATION OF COUNTY EMPLOYMENT

When you terminate employment your last day of coverage will be the date you receive your last pay for time worked. However, you will not receive coverage for any pay received due to severance or leave pay-out.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT AN ELECTION FORM

If you fail to submit a benefit election form before the end of an enrollment period, you will be deemed to have elected the following default coverage and authorized the pay deductions and/or pay reductions:

Please note that the default coverage elections are in addition to the mandatory basic benefits of term life, AD&D, BTA and LTD1 (if applicable).

- The medical, dental, vision, prescription drugs, additional term life and AD&D insurance, and dependent life insurance currently in effect.
- No allocation to dependent care or health care flexible spending accounts.

If you are a newly hired employee or are newly eligible for benefits, and fail to submit a benefit election form within 60 days of your hire date or qualified status change, you will be deemed to have elected **no** coverage for the remainder of the calendar year, with the exception of the mandatory basic benefits of term life, AD&D, BTA and LTD1 (if applicable).

Please note that in order to participate in the dependent care and health care flexible spending accounts, each year you must make an election during the enrollment period. If you participate in these accounts and fail to submit an election during the enrollment period, you will be deemed to have made an election not to participate for the upcoming calendar year.

CHANGING YOUR BENEFIT ELECTIONS

You may elect new benefits each year. Keep in mind that your choices are in effect for the entire calendar year, and can only be changed during the year if you have a *qualified status change*. Qualified status changes include:

Legal marital status. Events that change your legal marital status such as marriage, the death of a spouse, divorce and annulment.

Domestic partnership. Dissolving a grandfathered domestic partnership.

Number of dependents. Events that change the number of your dependents such as birth, death, adoption and placement for adoption of a child.

Employment status. The following events that change your, your spouse's or dependent's employment status:

- A termination or commencement of employment;
- A strike or lockout;
- A commencement of or return from an unpaid leave of absence; or
- A change in a worksite.

This category also includes a change in your employment status or the employment status of a dependent, in which you or your dependent become (or cease to be) eligible for coverage under a plan.

Dependent's eligibility for coverage. Events that cause your dependent to satisfy or cease to satisfy eligibility requirements for coverage such as attainment of a certain age, change in dependent status or change in employment.

Residence. A change in your, your spouse's or dependent's residence.

Special rule for court-ordered health coverage of child. A judgment, decree or order resulting from a divorce, legal separation, annulment or change in legal custody (including a qualified medical child support order) that requires you to provide coverage for your child. You may also cancel coverage for the child if the order requires your spouse, former spouse or another individual to provide coverage for the child.

Special rule for Medicare or Medicaid entitlement. You may be able to make a prospective election change to cancel or reduce coverage under the Plan if you, your spouse or dependent who is enrolled in the Plan becomes entitled to Medicare or Medicaid coverage or if you lose premium assistance from your state under the Children's Health Insurance Program. Conversely, if you, your spouse, or dependent loses eligibility for Medicare or Medicaid coverage or become eligible for premium assistance from your state under the Children's Health Insurance Program, you may make a prospective election to commence or increase coverage under the Plan.

Dependent care – cost changes. You may change your election for your dependent care flexible spending account in the event of a cost change, but only if your dependent care provider is *not your relative*, as defined in the Internal Revenue Code.

Dependent care – coverage changes. You may change your election for your dependent care flexible spending account when your dependent care provider is replaced by another.

The occurrence of a special enrollment period under HIPAA. For example, you may change your election if you lose coverage under another plan.

Other special circumstances. Other special circumstances that may permit you to change your elections include cost and coverage changes to a health plan, such as a significant change in your health coverage or your spouse's coverage. You may also elect changes to correspond with your spouse's open enrollment period.

Please Note:

- Changes in benefit elections must correspond with the qualified status change that affects eligibility for coverage under the Plan.
- Depending upon your qualified status change, you may revoke or decrease your elections for medical, dental, vision, prescription drugs, additional term life and AD&D insurance, dependent life insurance and the dependent care flexible spending account. However, you may only increase your pay reduction election to the health care flexible spending account.
- A qualified status change does not permit you to revoke the mandatory basic benefits.

Active Employee – If you have a qualified status change or experience one of the circumstances described above, you must submit the proper forms and supporting documentation to verify the event to the OHR Health Insurance Team within 60 days of the event occurring. Changes in group insurance elections will be effective on the day the completed forms and supporting documentation are submitted to the OHR Health Insurance Team within the 60 day timeframe. If the qualified status change is the birth, adoption or placement for adoption of a child, any group insurance elections will be retroactive to the child’s date of birth, date of placement for adoption or date of adoption if the completed forms and supporting documentation are submitted to OHR Health Insurance Team within the 60 day timeframe. If you submit the completed forms and supporting documentation for the birth, adoption or placement for adoption of a newborn (6 months of age or less) outside the 60 day time frame, the effective date of coverage will be the date the completed forms and supporting documentation are submitted. If the child is older than 6 months and you are outside the 60 day time frame, you must wait until the next enrollment period to add the child. Any adjustments to your pay deductions and/or pay reductions applicable to your election change will commence on a non-pro-rated basis as soon as practicable, without regard to the pay period. If you do not make the proper notification within 60 days, you must wait until the next enrollment period to make any election changes.

Retiree –You may make changes to your benefits (medical, prescription, dental and vision) anytime during the year. You can choose to enroll in a health insurance plan, change plan options or end coverage. If you end coverage for yourself, coverage for all of your dependents will also end. However, you may end coverage for your spouse or eligible dependents and retain coverage for yourself.

Election changes will be effective on the first day of the month following submission to the OHR Health Insurance Team provided the submission is received and processed by the 10th day of the month (or the last business day before the 10th of the month if the 10th falls on a weekend or holiday). If the OHR Health Insurance Team receives the forms after the 10th of the month, the effective date of the change will start on the first day of the second month. For births, adoption or placement for adoption of a child, any group insurance elections will be retroactive to the child’s date of birth, date of placement for adoption or date of adoption as long as completed forms and supporting documentation for the birth, adoption or date of adoption is received within 60 days. If you submit the completed forms outside the 60 day time frame, the effective date will be the first day of the month following notification if proper notice given before the 10th day of the month)

Any adjustments to your premiums applicable to your change will commence on the effective date of the change (e.g., the first day of the month following notification if proper notice given before the 10th day of the month).

It is recommended that you notify OHR Health Insurance Team promptly as a change could change your level of enrollment and your monthly premium.

MISSED ALLOCATIONS

You are responsible for your share of the costs associated with your benefit elections. Should there be insufficient funds to execute your authorized pro-rata pay reductions and/or payroll deductions, OHR will authorize collection of the missed allocations from future pay checks during the plan year. If you had your compensation reduced as a result of a qualified status change or do not have enough compensation to pay for the elected benefits, you will be contacted by OHR and given the opportunity to reduce your authorized reductions and/or deductions. If no response is received and the missed allocations cannot be collected for any reason during the plan year, coverage under the affected plan or plans will be canceled.

If you have 2 jobs with Montgomery County Government, premiums for group insurance coverage will only be deducted from your primary job assignment.

If you are a full scope temporary employee and fail to timely pay your premiums, your coverage will be terminated.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

If you are on an approved paid leave of absence, your coverage will continue on the same basis as before the leave commenced.

If you are on an approved unpaid leave of absence that is covered under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (“FMLA”), the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (“USERRA”) or parental leave:

- You may continue to be covered under the same benefit elections in effect prior to the leave or you may revoke your elections (under FMLA, you may not be eligible, in some circumstances, to participate in the dependent care flexible spending account).
- While on leave, you will be responsible for your share of the costs associated with your benefit elections; any amounts not paid will be recovered from future pay checks when you return to work. If you do not return to work, you are still responsible for your share of the costs. If your leave is covered under FMLA, you may pre-pay your share of the costs associated with your benefit elections prior to the commencement of the leave. If your leave spans two plan years, you may not pre pay on a before-tax basis for any coverage in the second plan year.
- Unless you revoked your election, when you return to work, the pay deductions and any pay reductions applicable to your benefit elections will commence automatically. If you revoked coverage, you have 60 days from the date you return to work to reelect coverage. If you do not reelect coverage, you will be deemed to have the coverage described under “Failure to Submit an Election Form.”

If you are on an approved unpaid leave of absence that is not covered under FMLA, or parental leave:

- You may continue to be covered under the same benefit elections in effect prior to the leave; the time period for such continuation is established under the County’s leave without pay policy (which may be modified by collective bargaining agreements) and may vary according to the reason for your unpaid leave of absence; also, the time period for continuation may be shorter than your approved leave and you may become eligible for COBRA.
- While on leave, you will be responsible for and billed for your share of the costs associated with your benefit elections; when you return to work, the pay deductions and any pay reductions applicable to your benefit elections will commence automatically. If you do not return to work, you are still responsible for your share of the costs.
- If you fail to pay your share of the costs associated with your benefit elections while on leave, your coverage will be canceled.
- If your approved leave extends beyond the time period for coverage continuation under the County’s leave without pay policy (which may be modified by collective bargaining agreements), you may continue coverage under COBRA (see below).

These are only the general provisions which permit you to continue coverage during an approved leave of absence. There are other rules that can affect your eligibility to continue coverage and participate in the Plan. It is important that you contact the OHR Health Insurance Team before any leave of absence, so you can receive information specific to your situation.

CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE (COBRA)

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. **The following information generally explains COBRA continuation coverage, when it may become available to you and your family, and what you need to do to protect the right to receive 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 when you would otherwise lose your group health coverage. It can also become available to other members of your family who are covered under the Plan when they would otherwise lose their group health coverage.

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 coverage would otherwise

end because of a life event known as a “qualifying event.” After a qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage must be offered to each person who is a “qualified beneficiary.” You, your spouse (including an eligible domestic partner), and your dependent children (including the eligible children of your domestic partner) 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 are an employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because either one of the following qualifying events happens:

- Your hours of employment are reduced; or
- Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

If you are the spouse of an employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happens:

- 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 enrolled in Medicare (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 any of the following qualifying events happens:

- 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 enrolled in Medicare (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 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. When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of hours of employment, death of the employee, or the employee becoming enrolled in Medicare (under Part A, Part B, or both), the employer must notify the Plan Administrator of the qualifying event.

For the 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, in writing or by e-mail, within 60 days after the qualifying event occurs. You must provide this written notice to:

The Office of Human Resources, Health Insurance Team
101 Monroe Street, 7th floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

If timely notice is not provided, no continuation coverage will be offered.

How is COBRA 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. When the qualifying event is the death of the employee, the employee's enrollment in Medicare (under Part A, Part B, or both), your divorce or legal separation, or a dependent child's losing eligibility as a dependent child, COBRA continuation coverage lasts for up to a total of 36 months.

When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee's hours of employment, and the employee enrolled in Medicare less than 18 months before the qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage for qualified beneficiaries other than the employee may be able to last up to 36 months after the date of Medicare entitlement. For example, if a covered employee becomes entitled to Medicare 8 months before the date on which his employment terminates, COBRA continuation coverage for his spouse and children may be able to last up to 36 months after the date of Medicare enrollment, which is equal to 28 months after the date of the qualifying event (36 months minus 8 months).

When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee's hours of employment, COBRA continuation coverage generally lasts for only up to a total of 18 months. There are two ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended:

1. ***Disability extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage.*** If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by the Social Security Administration to be disabled and you notify the Plan Administrator, in writing, you and your entire family may be entitled to receive up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a total maximum of 29 months. The disability would have to have started at some time before the 60th day of COBRA continuation coverage and you must notify the Plan Administration before the end of the 18 month continuation period. If the person ceases to be disabled this extension does not apply. You must provide this written notice, including the Social Security determination to:

The Office of Human Resources, Health Insurance Team
101 Monroe Street, 7th floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

If timely notice is not provided, no continuation coverage will be offered.

2. ***Second qualifying event extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage.*** If your family experiences another qualifying event while receiving 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 you provide written notice of the second qualifying event to the Plan Administrator within 60 days of the second qualifying event. This extension may be available to the spouse and any dependent children receiving continuation coverage if the employee or former employee dies, or gets divorced or legally separated, or if the dependent child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child, but only if the event would have caused the spouse or dependent child to lose coverage under the Plan had the first qualifying event not occurred. You must provide this written notice to:

The Office of Human Resources, Health Insurance Team
101 Monroe Street, 7th floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

If timely notice is not provided, no continuation coverage will be offered.

Termination of Continuation Coverage

Continuation coverage will be terminated before the end of the maximum period if:

- The required premium is not paid in full on time;
- A qualified beneficiary becomes covered, after electing continuation coverage, under another group health plan;
- A qualified beneficiary becomes enrolled in Medicare (under Part A, Part B, or both) after electing continuation coverage;
- The employer ceases to provide any group health plan for its employees; or
- Coverage was extended due to disability and the person is no longer disabled.

Other coverage options besides COBRA Continuation Coverage

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.

Keep Your Plan Informed of Address Changes

In order to protect your family's rights, you should keep the Plan Administrator informed of 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.

IN THE EVENT OF YOUR DEATH (AS AN ACTIVE EMPLOYEE)

If you die as an active employee who meets the eligibility requirements for group insurance benefits for retired employees (using your date of death as your separation from service date), your eligible

surviving spouse or grandfathered domestic partner and/or other dependents (who were eligible at the time of death, including an unborn child) may elect coverage under the benefit plans available to retirees at the same cost share you would have received. Your surviving spouse or grandfathered domestic partner may only cover other dependents who were eligible for coverage at the time of your death, including an unborn child. A non-spouse or grandfathered domestic partner dependent remains eligible for coverage only if the individual continues to meet the definition of dependent and may only elect individual coverage, if not covered by the surviving spouse or grandfathered domestic partner. See the section titled *Group Insurance Benefits For Retired Employees* for eligibility details.

If you die as an active employee who does **not** meet the eligibility requirements for group insurance benefits for retired employees (using your date of death as your separation from service date), your surviving spouse or grandfathered domestic partner and/or other dependents (who were eligible at the time of death, including an unborn child) remains eligible for coverage under the Plan under the benefit plans available to retirees for the period of time equal to the number of years of your eligibility under the group insurance plan. Your surviving spouse or grandfathered domestic partner may only cover other dependents who were eligible for coverage at the time of your death, including an unborn child. A non-spouse or grandfathered domestic partner dependent remains eligible for coverage only if the individual continues to meet the definition of dependent and may only elect individual coverage, if not covered by the surviving spouse or grandfathered domestic partner. The County cost share during that period will be the same as was in effect at the time of your death. When that period ends, coverage under the benefit plans will end subject to continuation of coverage under COBRA.

TAX ADVANTAGE

Most of the benefits available in the Plan are purchased before-tax. This results in a tax-effective way to share the cost of your benefit elections because your contributions are not subject to federal income tax, Social Security taxes (FICA), and most state and local taxes. Participation in the health care and dependent care flexible spending accounts also provides a tax-efficient means to pay for certain eligible non-reimbursed health care and dependent care expenses.

YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT

Because before-tax benefit costs and the flexible spending account contributions reduce the amount you pay in Social Security taxes (FICA), they may cause your Social Security benefits to be reduced.

CONTINUATION OF THE PLAN

The County expects to continue the Plan, but it is the County's position that there is no implied contract between employees and the County to do so, and reserves the right at any time and for any reason to amend or terminate the Plan, subject to the County's collective bargaining agreements.

The Plan may also be amended by the County at any time, either prospectively or retroactively, to conform to the Internal Revenue Code.

CLAIMS AND APPEALS

Each Plan has its own deadline for submitting claims. See the individual descriptions for more information.

In general, any denial of a claim for benefits must be in writing to you and must state the reason for the denial. You will be provided a reasonable opportunity to file a written request for a review of the decision denying the claim. Each individual benefit under the Plan has its own procedures for making claims and for appealing denied claims. The procedures contain important information regarding time limits for requesting a review. If you do not request a review in a timely manner, your claim will remain denied. These procedures are described in detail in the individual benefit booklets available from the OHR Health Insurance Team.

PLAN TERMINATION

Should the Plan ever terminate, the County will pay benefits payable on the date of termination.

PLAN DOCUMENT

This Summary Description only highlights the benefits contained in the Plan; the official Plan document and benefit booklets will always control, even when conflicts arise between the language of the Summary Description and the Plan document itself. A copy of the Plan document may be obtained upon written request to the OHR Health Insurance Team. A reasonable charge may be made for copying this material.

GROUP INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR RETIRED EMPLOYEES

The following is a summary of the group insurance benefits available at retirement. The information presented reflects *current benefits and policies* only. They are applicable to:

- employees who retire on or after January 1, 2001,
- those who were already retired as of January 1, 2001, provided they were enrolled in group insurance benefits as of December 31, 2000, and
- those who were already retired as of January 1, 2001 and were **not** enrolled in group insurance benefits as of December 31, 2000, but re-enrolled into group insurance during the special window opportunity provided under the Council Resolution *Retiree Re-election Opportunity for Group Insurance Cost Sharing* approved March 5, 2002.

The County expects to continue the group insurance benefits, but it is the County's position that there is no implied contract between retired employees and the County to do so. The County reserves the right at any time and for any lawful reason to amend or terminate its group insurance benefits and policies for retired employees.

These group insurance benefits may also be amended by the County at any time, either prospectively or retroactively, to comply with the Internal Revenue Code.

ELIGIBILITY FOR EMPLOYEES HIRED BEFORE JULY 1, 2011

If you are a member of the optional or integrated plan under the Montgomery County Employees' Retirement System (ERS) and hired before July 1, 2011, and retire under a normal, early, disability or discontinued service retirement, you are eligible for group insurance benefits. However, you are **not** eligible for group insurance benefits if you leave County service prior to retirement eligibility with a deferred vested benefit payable upon your normal retirement date.

| <i>If you belong to Group</i> | <i>Early Retirement at least...</i> | <i>Normal Retirement at least...</i> |
|--|--|---|
| A, AZ, AK or H, HZ, HK, or AB AT, AS, or UZ, UK A/H (SLT or police TCC supv. or on-supv.) | 15 years of service and age 50 20 years of service and age 45 | 5 years of service and age 60 30 years of service and age 55 30 years of service and age 50 |
| E, EZ, EK | 15 years of service and age 45 20 years of service and age 41 | 15 years of service and age 55 25 years of service and age 46 |
| F, FZ, FK | 15 years of service and age 45 20 years of service and age 41 | 15 years of service and age 55 25 years of service and any age |
| DRSP Entry | | 25 years of service and age 46 |
| G, GZ, GK | N/A | 15 years of service and age 55 20 years of service and any age |
| DROP Entry | | Eligible for normal retirement |

If you are a member of the Montgomery County Elected Officials' Plan (EOP, Group ZK), the Retirement Savings Plan (RSP, Group RN, RM, RC, RP), or the Guaranteed Retirement Income Plan (GRIP, Group CN, CM, CC, CP, CZ) and hired before July 1, 2011, you are eligible for group insurance upon separation from service if your age and credited service under a County Retirement Plan at the time of separation from service meet the following:

| <i>If you belong to Group</i> | <i>And you have credited service of at least</i> | <i>And your age is at least</i> |
|---|---|--|
| RN, RM RC; or CN, CM, CC, CZ; or ZK | 5 years 15 years 20 years | 60 50 45 |
| RP, CP - Police, Corrections, Sheriffs | 15 years 20 years | 45 41 |
| RP, CP - Fire | 20 years | Any age |

If you are awarded a non service connected disability under any County plan and are not eligible for group insurance under the eligibility above, you will be eligible for group insurance benefits if you have at least 5 years of County service credited under a retirement plan. You remain eligible for group insurance benefits for the duration of the disability.

If you are awarded a service connected disability under a County plan and are not eligible for group insurance under the eligibility above, you will be eligible for group insurance benefits for the duration of the disability and you will be treated as having 5 years of County service for cost-sharing purposes.

If you do not meet the criteria, you are not eligible for group insurance when you leave County service, except as provided under COBRA (see Continuation of Coverage (COBRA)). However, an appointed official who is separated from service for reasons other than for cause who does not meet the eligibility criteria, may remain covered under the Plan for 12 months or until he or she begins other employment which offers group health coverage, whichever occurs first.

If you are an employee of a Participating Agency you should contact your employer’s Office of Human Resources (OHR) for information on whether your employer participates in the County’s retiree group insurance benefits. If your employer participates in the County’s retiree group insurance benefits, the eligibility criteria applies to you.

COST SHARING FOR EMPLOYEES HIRED BEFORE JULY 1, 2011

Hire Date: December 31, 1986 through June 30, 2011, unrepresented, IAFF and MCGEO; Before June 30, 2011 FOP members only

If your most recent date of hire as a permanent full-time or part-time employee was after December 31, 1986 and before July 1, 2011, you are eligible for the following cost sharing arrangement for medical, dental, discount vision, standard option* prescription, term life insurance and dependent life insurance (Option 1, only). If you are an FOP member hired before July 1, 2011, this method also applies to you.

“Years” refers to years of eligibility under the group insurance plan; it does not include any transferred or purchased service, or any sick leave converted to credited service for ERS purposes.

| | <u>County Share</u> | <u>Retiree Share *</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 15 or more years..... | 70% | 30% |
| 14 years..... | 68% | 32% |
| 13 years..... | 66% | 34% |
| 12 years..... | 64% | 36% |
| 11 years..... | 62% | 38% |
| 10 years..... | 60% | 40% |
| 9 years..... | 58% | 42% |
| 8 years..... | 56% | 44% |
| 7 years..... | 54% | 46% |
| 6 year..... | 52% | 48% |
| 5 years..... | 50% | 50% |

* The County/Retiree cost sharing arrangement will not change for retirees enrolled in the Standard Option prescription plan. Retirees that choose to participate in the high option prescription plan will pay a higher percentage of the cost.

Hire Date Before January 1, 1987-unrepresented, IAFF and MCGEO members

If your most recent date of hire as a permanent full-time or part-time employee was prior to January 1, 1987, you may elect the cost sharing arrangement for medical, dental, discount vision, standard option* prescription, term life insurance and dependent life insurance for employees hired after December 31, 1987 detailed above or you may elect the cost sharing option below. You must be an unrepresented employee, a member of IAFF or MCGEO to have this option. Once you retire, you may not change your cost sharing arrangement.

“Years” refers to years of eligibility under the group insurance plan; it does not include any transferred or purchased service, or any sick leave converted to credited service for ERS purposes.

| | <u>County Share</u> | <u>Retiree Share</u> |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|
| For the period of time equal to the number of years of your eligibility under the group insurance plan, beginning from your retirement date ^{/1} | 80% | 20%* |
| After that period..... | 0% | 100% |

^{/1} Please note that this cost sharing period is not affected by any times during which, as a retiree, you elected no coverage for the benefits available to you.

* The County/Retiree cost sharing arrangement will not change for retirees enrolled in the standard option prescription plan. Retirees who choose to participate in the high option prescription plan will pay a higher percentage of the cost.

If under the 2010 Retirement Incentive Program, regardless of date of hire, you elected the enhanced cost sharing arrangement, you will pay 10% of the cost (and the County will pay 90%) for the first 5 years of retirement. If you cover family members as dependents, your cost share for this coverage will be the normal retiree cost share for the dependent coverage. After 5 years from date of retirement, your cost share will revert to what you elected at retirement.

See Retiree Life Insurance for special cost share information for life insurance.

ELIGIBILITY FOR EMPLOYEES HIRED OR REHIRED ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2011.

If you are a member of any County retirement plan and hired or rehired as a permanent employee on or after July 1, 2011, you must have **at least 10 years of County service** (credited under a County retirement plan) to be eligible for group insurance continuation when you leave County service. All other eligibility criteria remain the same as for employees hired before July 1, 2011 in the charts above (e.g., must have 15 years of credited service and be at least 50 years old).

If you are awarded a service connected disability (under any County plan) and do not have 10 years of County service under a County retirement plan, you will be eligible for the group insurance benefits for the duration of the disability.

If you do not meet the criteria, you are not eligible for group insurance when you leave County service, except as provided under COBRA (see Continuation of Coverage (COBRA)). However, an appointed official who is separated from service for reasons other than for cause who does not meet the eligibility criteria, may remain covered under the Plan for 12 months or until he or she begins other employment which offers group health coverage, whichever occurs first.

Note: If you are an employee of a Participating Agency, you should contact your employer’s Office of Human Resources (OHR) for information on whether your employer participates in the County’s retiree group insurance benefits. If your employer participates, in the County’s retiree group insurance benefits, the eligibility criteria applies to you.

COST SHARING FOR EMPLOYEES HIRED ON AND AFTER JULY 1, 2011

If your most recent date of hire as a permanent employee was after June 30, 2011, the cost sharing is as follows:

| Retiree Health Cost Share for those hired on and after 7/1/2011 | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Years of Svc</u> | <u>EE %</u> | <u>ER %</u> |
| 10 | 50.00 | 50.00 |
| 11 | 48.67 | 51.33 |
| 12 | 47.34 | 52.66 |
| 13 | 46.00 | 54.00 |
| 14 | 44.67 | 55.33 |
| 15 | 43.34 | 56.66 |
| 16 | 42.00 | 58.00 |
| 17 | 40.67 | 59.33 |
| 18 | 39.34 | 60.66 |
| 19 | 38.00 | 62.00 |
| 20 | 36.67 | 63.33 |
| 21 | 35.34 | 64.66 |
| 22 | 34.00 | 66.00 |
| 23 | 32.67 | 67.33 |
| 24 | 31.34 | 68.66 |
| 25+ | 30.00 | 70.00 |

“Years” refers to years of eligibility under the group insurance plan; it does not include any transferred or purchased service, or any sick leave converted to credited service for ERS purposes.

The County’s share at retirement will not be greater than the amount immediately preceding retirement.

See Retiree Life Insurance for special cost share information for life insurance.

IN THE EVENT YOU RETURN TO WORK FOR THE COUNTY AFTER RETIREMENT

If you return to work for the County or a participating agency in a position eligible for County group insurance, your participation in retiree group insurance will continue, with the exception of life insurance during your period of re-employment. When you again leave County (or participating agency) employment, your participation in the retiree group insurance program continues with the life insurance amount in effect at the time you originally retired, subject to any reductions which would have occurred during your time of re-employment.

You will participate in the active group life insurance. You may elect benefits which are not offered to retirees, such as the dental DHMO or the employee vision plan.

If you are rehired as a full-scope temporary employee, you may retain your retiree life insurance since full-scope temporary employees are not eligible for life insurance.

IN THE EVENT OF YOUR DEATH (AFTER RETIREMENT)

As a retiree who meets the eligibility requirements for group insurance benefits for retired employees, your eligible surviving spouse or grandfathered domestic partner may elect coverage under the benefit plans available to retirees, as if he/she was the retiree, under the same terms and conditions as you, except that your surviving spouse or grandfathered domestic partner may only cover other dependents who were eligible for coverage at the time of your death, including an unborn child. The County cost share during that period will be the same as was in effect at the time of your death.

BENEFITS AVAILABLE

Retirees are eligible for the following benefits:

- Medical
- Caremark High Option \$5 / \$10 Plan or Caremark Standard Option Plan
- Dental PPO (Traditional Dental Plan)
- Opti-Vision Discount Plan
- Retiree Term Life Insurance

Unless otherwise stipulated in collective bargaining agreements, retirees are not eligible for the following benefits, currently available to active employees:

- Basic Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance
- Business Travel Accident Insurance
- Vision Plan (active employees)
- Dental HMO (active employees)
- Health Care Flexible Spending Account
- Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account
- Optional Life Insurance (unless in effect at retirement)

You may be able to continue your Vision Plan coverage and your Health Care Flexible Spending Account coverage through COBRA, if you had coverage at the time of retirement.

ELECTING YOUR BENEFITS AT RETIREMENT

At the time of your retirement, you may elect medical, dental, vision, and prescription coverage. For each of these benefits you elect, you may also elect coverage for your eligible dependents. You may also elect to continue your dependent and optional life insurance into retirement. Each election can be made independent of other elections.

If your spouse or grandfathered domestic partner is also an employee or retiree of the County or a participating agency, and is eligible in their own right to enroll in a County benefit program, you are not restricted as to the benefits or coverage options you may elect (*subject to the note in the Addendum section under Dependent Life Insurance*). It is important, however, that you carefully coordinate your elections for benefits and coverage options with those of your spouse or grandfathered domestic partner.

If you elect *no* coverage for medical, discount vision or prescription, it is important that you have other coverage, either through a group or private plan.

If you are currently enrolled in dental and later elect *no* dental coverage, you must satisfy a two-year waiting period to be eligible to re-enroll in dental. Therefore, it is important that you are covered under another dental plan, if you elect *no* dental coverage.

As a retiree, during the annual Open Enrollment, you may change your medical, dental, discount vision and prescription coverage elections. For each of these benefits you elect, you may also elect coverage for your eligible dependents during this time. These elections will be effective the first of the following calendar year.

You may also make such changes mid-year as described earlier in this booklet in the section *Changing Your Benefit Elections*.

RETIREE TERM LIFE INSURANCE

If you are less than age 65 when you retire, your term life insurance will be an amount equal to 5% of the amount in force on the day prior to retirement (last active amount) for each full year you were insured prior to your retirement date, up to 100%. On the fifth anniversary of your retirement, and on each following anniversary of that date, the amount reduces by 10% of your initial post-retirement amount, but the amount will not reduce to less than 25% of your initial post-retirement amount. In any event, your amount on and after age 65 will not exceed 25% of your initial post-retirement amount.

If you are age 65 or older when you retire, the pre-age 65 *formula* applies for determining your initial post-retirement amount, but that amount is immediately reduced to 25%.

If you retire due to a disability, your retirement date for purposes of determining *when* your term life insurance amount reduces will be your normal retirement date or, if earlier, the date your total disability ends. For purposes of determining years insured, your retirement date will be your disability retirement date. Your term life insurance is 100% County paid until you reach your normal retirement date under your retirement plan. From that time until age 65, your cost sharing arrangement in effect for your other benefits will apply to the cost of your term life insurance, provided you are eligible for term life insurance at the time of your disability. Your life insurance

ends if you are deemed no longer disabled before age 65 and did not meet the eligibility criteria for retiree group insurance.

When you turn age 65: Your Basic Term Life Insurance becomes 100% County paid, regardless of your cost sharing arrangement. This happens automatically. (Reference your latest annual Group Insurance Confirmation Statement for your current coverage amount.)

If you elected the enhanced retiree term life insurance under the 2010 Retirement Incentive Program, you will not have any reduction in post-retirement basic life insurance for the first 10 years of retirement. After 10 years from date of retirement, basic life insurance benefits will return to the level that would have otherwise been in effect on that date had you not elected this option. Basic AD&D Insurance terminates at retirement.

DEPENDENT LIFE INSURANCE

Note: This coverage is optional and must be in effect at the time of retirement. (Reference your latest annual Group Insurance Confirmation Statement for current coverage amount). Dependent life insurance covers your spouse and eligible dependent children. Eligible dependent children are your unmarried children who are less than 26 years old. At retirement, you may elect to continue the coverage in effect at the time of your retirement. You may also elect to change your coverage or elect no dependent life insurance. After retirement, you may not elect a new coverage option, but you may cancel your dependent life insurance.

You are automatically the beneficiary for this insurance. *Please note: If both you and your spouse are eligible for Montgomery County sponsored dependent life insurance, and both of you elect dependent life insurance, benefits for an eligible dependent child will be payable either under your coverage or your spouse's, but not both.*

OPTIONAL LIFE INSURANCE

Optional life insurance is coverage in addition to your basic term life insurance. You may elect to continue your optional life insurance into retirement provided your coverage was in effect at the time of retirement; reference your latest annual Group Insurance Confirmation Statement for current coverage amount. The coverage is frozen at the amount in effect at the time of retirement. After retirement, you may not change your coverage amount, but you may cancel your optional life insurance. This coverage ends at age 70 for those retirees that retired prior to January 1, 2016 or July 1, 2016 (depending upon collective bargaining representation). Unrepresented and FOP employees who retired on and after January 1, 2016 that have elected optional life insurance can continue this benefit beyond age 70. MCGEO and IAFF employees that retired after 7/1/2016 can continue this benefit beyond age 70. Age reductions apply the first day of the month following your 70th birthday. From ages 70-74, insurance amount will be reduced to 50% and age 75 and older your insurance amount will be reduced to 25%. Amounts are reduced and rounded to the next higher \$1,000. Optional AD&D terminates at age 70. The cost is 100% retiree paid.

MEDICARE

Medical Coverage

Generally, you become eligible for Medicare at age 65 or if awarded Social Security disability prior to age 65. Medicare becomes your primary medical insurance and the County's medical plan becomes your secondary medical insurance effective the date you become eligible for Medicare. You must enroll in Medicare Part A and Part B at that time, if you fail to do so, your out of pocket expenses may become higher.

Most County medical plans *coordinate* with Medicare.* This means that the benefits payable under your County medical plan will generally work together with Medicare to ensure that you receive as complete a coverage as possible (but not a duplication of coverage). Generally, your retiree medical premium reduces and your prescription premium increase when you become Medicare-eligible.

**Kaiser participants:* You cannot continue coverage under the same Kaiser plan that you had prior to age 65. When Medicare becomes the primary coverage for you or any of your covered dependents, the Medicare eligible individual is required to enroll in Kaiser's Medicare Plus Plan. Kaiser will contact you directly regarding enrollment. If you do not enroll in Kaiser's Medicare Plus plan when required, your enrollment in Kaiser will be discontinued. At that time, you may contact the County if you wish to elect another medical plan option.

What happens if you do not enroll in Medicare Part B?

If you do not enroll in Medicare Part B, your out-of-pocket expenses may be significantly higher. Why? Because your County medical plan (except Kaiser) pays as if you had enrolled in Medicare Part B – even if you did not.

Example: Let's say that, before age 65, your County medical plan covered a certain benefit ("Benefit X") at \$200. When you turn age 65, Benefit X is classified as a Medicare Part B benefit that is covered by Medicare Part B for \$120. The County medical plan, being your *secondary* insurance that coordinates with Medicare, covers Benefit X at \$80. Regardless of whether or not you have enrolled in Medicare Part B, the County medical plan covers Benefit X at \$80 (not \$200). That means that if you are not enrolled in Medicare Part B, you would be responsible for paying the amount not covered by your County insurance (\$120).

If you receive a service that is not covered by Medicare, but *is* covered under your County medical plan, the benefit will be paid as specified under the County's plan (subject to an annual deductible and then payment of 80% of R&C) because it is acting as primary coverage for that service. However, services not covered by Medicare *are not* covered under the CareFirst Indemnity plan.

What about your County medical plan premiums?

When either you or your spouse/grandfathered domestic partner becomes eligible for Medicare at age 65, your premium will also change. When someone first becomes Medicare-eligible, the premium paid will decrease from the Non-Medicare rate to a lower split rate. When you and all your dependents become eligible for Medicare, the rate paid will decrease to the Medicare rate.

Prescription - Medicare Part D

If you (and/or your dependents) are eligible for Medicare (including due to disability) and elect to participate in the Prescription Plan, the Caremark High Option or the Caremark Standard Plan, you (and/or your dependents) will automatically be enrolled in Medicare Part D. If you elect to participate in Kaiser, this is not applicable to you. You are not eligible for Medicare Part D and the County's Prescription Plan, if you (a) have an international address; (b) do not have Medicare Part A and/or Part B; or (c) are incarcerated.

The Prescription Plan coordinates around Medicare to provide prescription drug coverage. SilverScript administers the program for the County. Medicare requires that you have a 21 day period to opt out of the Medicare Part D program. However, if you opt out, **you (and your dependents, if applicable) will not have any prescription drug coverage through the County's Prescription Plans.**

Under Medicare, if you pay an income based adjusted premium, you will also pay an additional amount for Part D.

Under the coordination with Medicare, all aspects of the Prescription Plan are as described under the Prescription Plan later in this book. For example, you will pay the applicable copayment and the Prescription Plan's formulary will apply.

What happens if you opt out of Medicare Part D?

If you (and/or your eligible dependents) opt out of Medicare Part D, you (and/or your eligible dependents) are not eligible to participate in the County's Prescription Drug Plan and will terminate participation in the Prescription Drug Plan.

For more information:

- Visit www.medicare.gov.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

ADDENDUM - CURRENT BENEFITS AND COVERAGE OPTIONS OFFERED UNDER THE PLAN

| Type of Benefit | Benefit Plans and Providers | Coverage Options |
|--|--|---|
| <p><u>Basic life insurance</u> Premium split:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County – 75% • Employee (after-tax) – 25% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term life insurance • Accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) • Business travel accident (BTA) <p><i>Minnesota Life</i></p> | <p>Basic Benefit</p> |
| <p><u>Long term disability (LTD1)</u> Premium split:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County – 75% • Employee (after-tax) – 25% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LTD1 for ERS members – <i>The Standard</i> | <p>Basic Benefit for Full-time Employees in the ERS</p> <p>Part time employees in the ERS are not eligible.</p> |
| <p><u>Medical</u> Premium split:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County – 75% • Employee (before-tax) – 25% for High and Standard Option POS (CareFirst) • County-80% • Employee (before-tax) 20% for HMO (Kaiser and United Healthcare) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Option POS Plan (Medical only) - <i>CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield</i> • Standard Option POS Plan (Medical only) - <i>CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield</i> • HMO (Medical plus Kaiser Rx) - <i>Kaiser Permanente</i> • HMO (Medical only) – <i>United Healthcare</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self • Self + 1 • Family • No Coverage |
| <p><u>Dental</u> Premium split:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County – 75% • Employee (before-tax) – 25% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional plan (Dental PPO) – <i>United Concordia</i> • Dental HMO (DHMO) - <i>United Concordia</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self • Self + 1 • Family • No Coverage - 2 year restriction for re-entry |

| Type of Benefit | Benefit Plans and Providers | Coverage Options |
|--|---|---|
| <p><u>Vision</u> Premium split:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County – 75% Employee (before-tax) – 25% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vision plan – <i>National Vision Administrators (NVA)</i> actives only Opti-Vision Discount Plan – <i>National Vision Administrators (NVA)</i> retirees only | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self Self + 1 Family No Coverage - 2 year restriction for re-entry |
| <p><u>Prescription (Rx)</u> Premium split:**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County – 75% Employee (before-tax) – 25% | <p><i>Caremark</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Option \$4/\$8 (MCGEO & IAFF) \$5/\$10 (FOP, Retirees & Un-represented) Standard Option \$10/\$20/\$35 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self Self + 1 Family No Coverage |
| <p><u>Optional life insurance</u> Premium split:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee (after-tax) – 100% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Term life insurance, Accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) <i>Minnesota Life</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x's basic annual earnings 2 x's basic annual earnings 3 x's basic annual earnings 4 x's basic annual earnings 5 x's basic annual earnings 6 x's basic annual earnings 7 x's basic annual earnings 8 x's basic annual earnings No coverage (To a maximum of \$1,000,000) |
| <p><u>Dependent life insurance</u> Premium split:*</p> <p>First level -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County – 75% Employee (after-tax) – 25% <p>Second and Third levels -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee (after-tax) – 100% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Term life insurance – <i>Minnesota Life</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2,000 spouse; \$1,000 child to age 26; \$1,000 newborn within 31 days of birth \$4,000 spouse; \$2,000 child to age 26; \$1,000 newborn within 31 days of birth \$10,000 spouse; \$5,000 child to age 26; \$1,000 within 31 days of birth No Coverage |
| <p><u>Flexible Spending Account</u> Premium split:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee (before-tax) – 100% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Care Flexible Spending Account Plan | \$0 to \$2,550 in whole dollar amounts |
| <p><u>Flexible Spending Account</u> Premium split:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee (before-tax) – 100% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account Plan | \$0 to \$5,000 in whole dollar amounts |

* The cost sharing applies to active employees; retiree cost sharing is explained on pages 19-21.

**The County/Employee cost sharing arrangement will not change for employees enrolled in the Standard Option prescription plan. Employees that choose to participate in the High Option prescription plan will pay a higher percentage of the cost.

BENEFIT HIGHLIGHTS

Below are some highlights of the benefits listed on the previous pages. Please refer to the current individual benefit booklets for coverage details, including any exclusions and limitations. In the case of a conflict, the individual benefit booklets will control.

BASIC LIFE INSURANCE

If you are a full-time employee, you are required to have the following basic insurance coverage:

Term life insurance of 1 times your basic annual earnings, up to \$200,000. For active employees, at age 65, coverage is reduced to 65% of the pre-65 face value.

- * Accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance of 8 times your basic annual earnings, up to \$600,000, for a loss of life that is a direct result of an accidental injury sustained in the performance of County employment (lesser amounts may be payable for certain dismemberments resulting from accidental bodily injury).
- * AD&D insurance of 4 times your basic annual earnings, up to \$300,000, for a loss of life that is *not* a direct result of an accidental injury sustained in the performance of County employment (lesser amounts may be payable for certain dismemberments resulting from accidental bodily injury).
- * Business travel accident (BTA) insurance of \$100,000 for a loss of life resulting from an accident while traveling in a common carrier (e.g., a commercial airline, train or bus) during a business trip; \$50,000 for a loss of life resulting from an accident during a business trip *other than* while traveling in a common carrier (lesser amounts may be payable for certain dismemberments resulting from accidental bodily injury occurring during a business trip). *Please note that the business trip must be outside of Montgomery County, Maryland.*
- * An employee whose life expectancy is less than twelve (12) months may be eligible to receive an accelerated death benefit of 100% of the policy in force.

Members of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), Local 1664 and Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), Lodge 35 have a minimum basic benefit of \$500,000 for a loss of life that is a direct result of an accidental injury sustained in the performance of County employment.

If you are a part-time employee, your required basic insurance coverage is your annual earnings. See the Certificate of Insurance for life insurance to determine your AD&D coverage amounts.

If you are a Circuit Court judge, you are not required to have life insurance and may elect coverage within 60 days from your appointment to the bench.

LONG TERM DISABILITY (LTD1)

LTD1 for full-time employees who are members of the optional or integrated plan under the Employees' Retirement System (ERS):

If you are a full-time employee and a member of the **optional or integrated plan under the ERS**, you are required to have LTD1 coverage (part-time employees who are members of the **optional or integrated plan under the ERS** are not eligible for coverage). Your coverage becomes effective after 6 months of continuous active service with the County.

The monthly income benefit under LTD1 is 60% of your basic monthly earnings, up to a maximum of \$2,500. Your monthly income benefit will be reduced by certain other sources of income, including amounts you and your dependents may be eligible to receive under Social Security due to your disability.

While covered under LTD1, you are entitled to benefits if you become totally disabled from performing the duties of your occupation due to sickness or accidental bodily injury and remain totally disabled continuously throughout the benefit waiting period of 5 months. After the expiration of the benefit waiting period, you will receive monthly income benefit payments during the continuation of your disability, but for no longer than 12 months.

If your monthly income benefit has been payable for 12 months and your disability completely prevents you from engaging in any occupation for which you are qualified by training, education or experience, you will continue to receive your monthly income benefit.

However, monthly income benefit payments will cease on the earlier of the following dates:

- * The date you receive retirement benefits under any pension plan to which your employer contributes or makes payroll deductions, other than benefits which become payable solely because of disability.
- * The date shown below, based on when your disability commences:

Age 61 or under – your 65th birthday or the day 36 payments have been made, whichever is later.

Age 62, 63 or 64 – the date 36 payments have been made.

Age 65, 66 or 67 – the date 24 payments have been made.

Age 68 or 69 – the date 12 payments have been made.

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 60 or younger | To age 65, or to SSNRA, or 5 years, whichever is longest. |
| 61 | To SSNRA, or 4 years, whichever is longer. |
| 62 | To SSNRA, or 3 years 6 months, whichever is longer. |
| 63 | To SSNRA, or 3 years, whichever is longer. |
| 64 | To SSNRA, or 2 years 6 months, whichever is longer. |

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 65 | 2 years |
| 66 | 1 year 9 months |
| 67 | 1 year 6 months |
| 68 | 1 year 3 months |
| 69 or older | 1 year |

MEDICAL PLANS

You may elect one of the medical options offered under the Plan or choose no coverage at all. Below are brief descriptions of each option and a comparison chart of key features.

*Please note that, with the exception of Kaiser Permanente, the medical options **do not** provide prescription drug coverage. However, you have the option to elect prescription drug coverage under a separate plan offered through Caremark.*

The CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield Point-of-Service Plans (POS) are managed care programs. The BlueChoice Advantage Network provides you with choices over your out-of-pocket costs. You do not need to select a primary care provider (PCP) or obtain a referral to see a specialist with this option. You can visit any provider and your choice will determine your out-of-pocket costs.

When care is rendered in Maryland, Washington, D.C. or Northern Virginia, use the CareFirst Blue Choice Network to receive the highest level of coverage and pay the lower out-of-pocket costs.

If you seek care outside the CareFirst service area you will lower costs by using a National Blue Card PPO provider. You still have the option to opt-out of this network but will pay a higher out-of-pocket expenses.

If services are received from a provider outside of the BlueCard network, you will have to:

- Pay the provider’s actual charge at the time you receive care.
- File a claim for reimbursement.
- Satisfy a deductible and coinsurance.

If Medicare is the primary coverage for you or any of your covered dependents, please refer to the separate CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield Medicare Supplemental Plan summary.

There are two POS plans offered – a High Option Plan and a Standard Option Plan. Prescription drug coverage is not included with either plan, but may be elected under a separate plan offered through Caremark.

Kaiser Permanente is a health maintenance organization (HMO) which provides all care at special Kaiser Centers. You must use providers at the Kaiser centers to receive benefits under this plan. If you receive care elsewhere, you must pay the full cost. Please note that the Kaiser Permanente HMO medical plan does include prescription drug coverage and therefore, it is not necessary to elect such coverage under a separate plan. Members pay \$5 at on-site pharmacies and for mail order; \$15 at participating community pharmacies.

If Medicare is the primary coverage for you or any of your covered dependents, you are required to enroll in Kaiser’s Medicare Plus plan. Kaiser will contact you directly regarding your enrollment. If you are a Kaiser participant and do not enroll in Kaiser’s Medicare Plus plan when required, your enrollment in Kaiser will be discontinued. At that time, you may contact the County if you wish to elect another medical plan option.

If you are a retiree and move out of the Kaiser Permanente network area (as determined by Kaiser Permanente) while participating in the Kaiser Permanente HMO plan, you will **automatically** be enrolled in the United Healthcare and Caremark Standard Option Prescription plans. If you wish to make other changes, you must contact the OHR Health Insurance Team regarding your available health plan choices.

United Healthcare is an individual practice health maintenance organization (HMO). Private physicians who belong to the United Healthcare network render care in their own offices. You must submit any claims for services within fifteen (15) months following the date of service. You must use United Healthcare providers in order to receive benefits under this plan. If you receive care elsewhere, you must pay the full cost. Prescription drug coverage is not included, but may be elected under a separate plan offered through Caremark.

It is important that you carefully read the coverage details contained in the individual medical booklets to determine which plan is best for you. Also, it is important that you are covered under another medical plan if you elect no medical coverage at all. Please remember that your elections are in force for the entire calendar year. The coverage described in the medical comparison chart is how the County’s plans pay when they are your primary coverage. Generally, if you are also covered under Medicare and are retired from the workforce, Medicare is your primary coverage and your County plan is secondary. This may change the copays and charges listed in the medical comparison chart. If you are retired from the workforce and if your County medical plan *coordinates* with Medicare, the benefits payable under your County medical plan will generally be reduced by the benefits payable under Medicare, regardless of whether you are actually enrolled in Medicare.

MEDICAL PLANS COMPARISON CHART

| Benefit | Kaiser Permanente | United HealthCare | POS Standard | POS High |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Allergy Testing | \$5 copay | \$5 copay PCP \$10 copay Specialist | In-Network: Covered in full Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible. | In-Network: Covered in full Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible. |
| Deductible | None | None | In-Network: None Out-of-Network: \$300 individual; \$600 family. | In-Network: None Out-of-Network: \$300 individual; \$600 family. |
| Diagnostic/Lab/X-Ray | Covered in full. | Covered in full. | In-Network: Covered in full Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible. | In-Network: Covered in full Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible. |
| Dr. Office Visits | \$5 copay | \$5 copay PCP \$10 copay Specialist | In-Network: \$15 copay Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible. | In-Network: \$10 copay Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible. |
| Emergency Room | \$50 copay waived if admitted to hospital | \$25 copay waived if admitted to hospital. \$15 copay for urgent care. | In-Network: \$35 copay waived if admitted to hospital; Out-of-Network: 80% | In-Network: \$25 copay waived if admitted to hospital Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible |

| Benefit | Kaiser Permanente | United HealthCare | POS Standard | POS High |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| | | | covered after deductible | |
| Hearing Aids | For minor children. One hearing aid for each hearing impaired ear once every 36 months | For minor children. One hearing aid for each hearing impaired ear once every 36 months | In-Network/Out-of-Network: For minor children, one hearing aid for each hearing impaired ear once every 36 months | In-Network/Out-of-Network: For minor children, one hearing aid for each hearing impaired ear once every 36 months |
| Hearing Screening | \$5 copay for hearing exam (hearing aids are excluded) | \$5 Copay PCP \$10 Copay Specialist | In-Network: Childhood hearing screening covered in full Out-of-Network: Childhood hearing screening, 80% not subject to deductible. | In-Network: Childhood hearing screening covered in full Out-of-Network: Childhood hearing screening, 80% not subject to deductible. |
| Home Health Care Services | Covered in full if medically necessary. | Covered in full. No copayment. 60 visit maximum for skilled care services per calendar year. | In-Network: Covered in full (90 visits max/calendar year) Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible (90 visits max/calendar year) | In-Network: Covered in full (90 visits max/calendar year) Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible (90 visits max/calendar year) |
| Hospice | Covered in full. | Covered in full. (See coverage booklet for eligibility information). | In-Network: Covered in full Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible. | In-Network: Covered in full Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible. |
| Hospital | Covered in full. | Covered in full. | In-Network: Covered in full after \$150 copay per admission; Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible | In-Network: Covered in full Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible |
| Immunizations | Included in well child care visits up to age 5 at no charge. | \$5 copay PCP | In-Network: Covered in full Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible | In-Network: Covered in full Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible |
| In vitro Fertilization | Limited to 3 attempts per live birth. Lifetime maximum of \$100,000. | Limited to 3 attempts per live birth. Lifetime maximum of \$100,000. | In-Network/Out-of-Network: Limited to 3 attempts per live birth. Lifetime maximum of \$100,000. | In-Network/Out-of-Network: Limited to 3 attempts per live birth. Lifetime maximum of \$100,000. |
| Mammography - Preventive Screening Schedule | Schedule consistent with the current recommendations of the American College of Physicians. | Covered in full. Age 35-39; one baseline mammogram; Age 40-49; one mammogram every two calendar years; Age 50+ one mammogram per calendar year. | In-Network/Out-of-Network: Covered in full. Age 35-39: one baseline mammogram; Age 40-49; One mammogram every two calendar years; Age 50+ One mammogram per calendar year. | In-Network/Out-of-Network: Covered in full. Age 35-39: one baseline mammogram; Age 40-49; One mammogram every two calendar years; Age 50+ One mammogram per calendar year. |

| Benefit | Kaiser Permanente | United HealthCare | POS Standard | POS High |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Maternity | Covered in full once pregnancy is diagnosed. | No copayment applies after the first visit. | In-Network: first visit 100% after \$30 copay; other visits 100% Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible | In-Network: First visit 100% after \$10 copay; other visits 100% Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible |
| Maximum Lifetime Benefit | Unlimited maximum. | Unlimited maximum. | In-Network/Out-of-Network: Unlimited maximum | In-Network/Out-of-Network: Unlimited maximum |
| Out-of-Pocket Annual Maximum | None | \$1,100 per individual up to cap of \$3,600 for a family. | In-Network: Individual: \$1,000 plus the annual deductible; Family: \$2,000 plus the annual deductible; Out-of-Network: Individual: \$2,000 plus the annual deductible; Family: \$4,000 plus the annual deductible. | In-Network: Individual: \$1,000 plus the annual deductible; Family: \$2,000 plus the annual deductible; Out-of-Network: Individual: \$2,000 plus the annual deductible; Family: \$4,000 plus the annual deductible. |
| Physical | Covered in full. | \$5 copay PCP | In-Network: \$15 copay Primary Care Physician; \$30 copay specialist Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible (limit 1/calendar year) | In-Network: \$10 copay Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible (limit 1/calendar year) |
| Prescriptions | Kaiser Rx plan (included with Kaiser HMO medical plan): \$50 at on-site pharmacies and for mail order; \$15 at participating pharmacies. | No Rx Plan included; diabetic supplies covered under a pharmacy rider. | In-Network/Out-of-Network: No Rx Plan included; diabetic supplies covered under a pharmacy rider. | In-Network/Out-of-Network: No Rx Plan included; diabetic supplies covered under a pharmacy rider. |
| Rehabilitation Services | Inpatient: Covered in full (unlimited). Outpatient \$5 copay; outpatient services for physical therapy are limited to up to 30 visits; occupational and speech therapy per injury, incident or condition are covered for a period not to exceed 90 days. | \$10 copay/visit. 60 combined visits per year (short-term non-chronic conditions only). | In-Network: 100% Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible | In-Network: 100% Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible |
| Skilled Nursing Facility | Covered in full; 100 days maximum | Covered in full; 60 days per calendar year maximum. | In-Network: Covered in full (100 days max/calendar year) Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible (100 days max/calendar year). | In-Network: Covered in full (100 days max/calendar year) Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible (100 days max/calendar year). |
| Specialists | \$5 copay | \$10 copay | In-Network: \$30 copay; Out-of-Network: 80% | In-Network: \$10 copay Out-of-Network: 80% |

| Benefit | Kaiser Permanente | United HealthCare | POS Standard | POS High |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | | | covered after deductible | covered after deductible |
| Substance Abuse/Mental Health | Inpatient: Covered in full; Outpatient: \$5 copay | Inpatient: Covered in full; Outpatient: \$5 copay | In-Network: Inpatient- \$150 per admission copay; Outpatient- \$15 copay Out-of-Network: Inpatient- 80% covered after deductible; Outpatient- 80% covered after deductible. | In-Network: Inpatient- covered in full; Outpatient- \$10 copay; Out-of-Network: Inpatient- 80% covered after deductible; Outpatient- 80% covered after deductible. |
| Surgery | Covered in full. | Inpatient: covered in full; Outpatient: \$25 copay | In-Network: Covered in full Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible | In-Network: Covered in full Out-of-Network: 80% covered after deductible |
| Vision (Routine) | \$5 copay for exams; 25% discount on lenses/frames at Kaiser centers; 15% discount off the costs of contact lenses. | \$25 copay for exam; 15-20% discount through participating optical centers. | In-Network: Refraction not covered; (pediatric visual screening - covered in full under well child care). Out-of-Network: Refraction not covered (pediatric visual screening - 80% not subject to deductible under well child care). | In-Network: Refraction not covered; (pediatric visual screening - covered in full under well child care). Out-of-Network: Refraction not covered (pediatric visual screening - 80% not subject to deductible under well child care). |
| Well Child Care | Well baby/well child covered in full up to age 5. | \$5 copay PCP | In-Network: \$15 copay Out-of-Network: 80% not subject to deductible (up to age 18). | In-Network: \$10 copay Out-of-Network: 80% not subject to deductible (up to age 18). |

The County expects to continue its group insurance plans, but it is the County's position that there is no implied contract to do so. The County reserves the right to change or discontinue any terms of the plans, subject to applicable laws and collective bargaining agreements. The County may amend the plans, either prospectively or retroactively, as required by Federal or State law. In the event of a conflict between this chart, the County Code, the Summary Description and/or the Plan documents, the County Code, then the Plan Document and then the Summary Description will govern.

DENTAL

You may elect one of the dental options offered under the Plan or choose no coverage at all. This election is independent of your medical election. Below is a brief description of each plan.

The **Traditional Dental Plan (Dental PPO)** provides payment for the following covered services, subject to the plan maximums and limitations:

- * Class I Services - Diagnostic and Preventive; payable at 100% of reasonable and customary charges (no more than two in any calendar year).
- * Class II Services - Basic Restorative, Endodontics, Periodontics, Maintenance of Prosthodontics and Oral Surgery; payable at 80% of reasonable and customary charges.
- * Class III Services - Major Restorative, Installation of Prosthodontics; Payable at 60% of reasonable and customary charges.

- * Class IV Services - Orthodontics; payable at 60% of reasonable and customary charges.

The maximum benefit, excluding Class IV Services, is \$2,000 per person each year. The lifetime maximum for Class IV Services (orthodontics) is \$1,000 per person.

Each year, you will need to meet a deductible of \$50 per person, or \$150 for family. The deductible does not apply to Class I Services.

As an additional plan feature, if you use a dentist who is a member of the Preferred Provider Organization (PPO), charges for covered services will usually be discounted. This means your cost will usually be less than that associated with a dentist who is not a member of the PPO. Please remember that under the Traditional Dental Plan (Dental PPO), you may use any dentist you wish; use of the PPO feature is voluntary. You must submit any claims for services within fifteen (15) months following the date of service.

The **Dental HMO (DHMO)** is an alternative option to the Traditional Dental Plan and operates much like a medical HMO. The key features of the plan include:

- * No charge or modest patient charges for diagnostic/preventive and restorative procedures, as well as oral surgery.
- * Fixed patient charges for services associated with crowns and bridges, endodontics, periodontics, prosthetics, denture relining and orthodontics (24 month maximum lifetime benefit for orthodontic services).
- * The patient charge schedule applies only when procedures are performed by a network dentist; **procedures performed by a non-network dentist are not covered.**
- * Only the procedures listed on the patient charge schedule for the Dental HMO (DHMO) will be covered; **those procedures not listed will not be covered.**
- * Visits to a network specialist, such as an Endodontist, Periodontist, Orthodontist, Oral Surgeon, or Pediatric Dentist (up to the 7th birthday) require a signed specialty referral form from the patient's primary dentist.
- * The Dental HMO (DHMO) is a *separate plan* from the Traditional Dental Plan (Dental PPO); **there is no "out-of network" benefit associated with the Dental HMO (DHMO).**

Please note that if you are currently enrolled in a dental plan and "opt out" for the upcoming calendar year during Open Enrollment, you must satisfy a two-year waiting period to be eligible to re-enroll in a dental plan. Also, if you do not elect a dental plan during your initial offering (for example, if you are a new hire or have a change in employment status), you must satisfy a two-year waiting period to be eligible to enroll in a dental plan. In this case, the two-year waiting period may be longer since you may only elect benefits for an upcoming calendar year during Open Enrollment. Therefore, it is important that you are covered under another dental plan, such as your spouse's, if you elect to "opt out" of coverage. These enrollment restrictions are subject to the qualified status change provisions of the Plan.

VISION

The vision benefit provides you with reimbursement of your costs for routine eye exams, eyeglass frames and lenses, and contact lenses up to a maximum amount. As an additional plan feature, you have the option of using the participating provider network. The network benefit is usually higher than the schedule of benefits for non-network providers. However, you will only qualify for the network benefit when you follow the specific steps as outlined in the benefit booklet. You must submit any claims for services within one year following the date of service.

Please note that if you are currently enrolled in the vision benefit and “opt out” for the upcoming calendar year during Open Enrollment, you must satisfy a two-year waiting period to be eligible to re-enroll in the vision benefit. Also, if you do not elect the vision benefit during your initial offering (for example, if you are a new hire or have a change in employment status), you must satisfy a two-year waiting period to be eligible to enroll in the vision benefit. In this case, the two-year waiting period may be longer since you may only elect benefits for an upcoming calendar year during Open Enrollment. These enrollment restrictions are subject to the qualified status change provisions of the Plan.

The schedule of benefits is presented on the next page.

| Service and Frequency | Schedule of Benefits Non-Network Providers | Schedule of Benefits Participating Provider Network |
|--|--|--|
| Vision Examination (once every calendar year) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optometrist • Ophthalmologist | Up to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$64 maximum • \$84 maximum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • covered in full • covered in full |
| Frames (once every other calendar year) | Up to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$50 maximum (based on retail cost) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$50 wholesale allowance (frames exceeding the \$50 wholesale allowance will be billed at the wholesale difference plus 20%) |
| Lenses per pair (once every calendar year) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single refraction • Bifocal • Trifocal • Lenticular • Options • Contact lenses (when prescribed after cataract surgery or when needed to restore the visual acuity of a person's better eye to 20/70 or better) • Contacts (in lieu of glasses) | Up to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ 50 maximum • \$ 90 maximum • \$110 maximum • \$310 maximum • N/A • \$600 maximum • \$100 maximum | Clear Glass/Plastic; Regular Size Lenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • covered in full • covered in full • covered in full • covered in full • Provided under the plan at the actual wholesale cost plus 25% • up to \$600 maximum • up to \$100 maximum (participating providers will charge UCR less 25% for contacts which are in lieu of glasses) |

DISCOUNT VISION for RETIREES and COBRA

You may elect the following discount vision benefit or elect no discount vision. This election is independent of any other benefit election. Below is a brief description of the program:

The discount vision program has a network of participating ophthalmologists, optometrists, and opticians from whom you may obtain service. By presenting your identification card to a participating provider, you may receive routine eye exams, lenses and frames at discount prices. The level of discounts may vary by region of the country.

OPTIONAL LIFE INSURANCE

In addition to your basic life insurance, you may purchase optional term life insurance in amounts equal to 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 times your basic annual earnings, subject to a maximum of \$1,000,000. Included with your optional term life election is an equivalent amount of AD&D subject to the same \$1,000,000 maximum.

You pay the full cost of the optional life insurance. The group rates are based on your age and you must be actively at work for any new coverage amounts to be in effect.

There are no evidence of insurability requirements for this optional life insurance if:

- * You elect optional life insurance as a new hire within 31 days of your hire date and are actively at work on the coverage effective date. This applies only to coverage for 1-4 times your basic annual earnings or up to \$400,000 if less.
- * You are currently enrolled in optional life insurance and elect to increase your coverage within 60 days of marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption of a child, and are actively at work on the coverage effective date. This applies only to coverage for 1-4 times your basic annual earnings or up to \$400,000 if less
- * You are currently not enrolled in optional life insurance and elect to increase your coverage within 60 days of marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption of a child, and are actively at work on the coverage effective date. This applies only to coverage for 1-4 times your basic annual earnings or up to \$400,000 if less.

However, satisfactory evidence of insurability will be required in all other situations, such as:

- * You fail to elect optional life insurance within 31 days of your hire date and later wish to do so.
- * You currently have 1, 2, 3 or 4 times your basic annual earnings in optional life insurance and later wish to increase your amount of coverage to a higher multiple above \$400,000 of basic annual earnings than that which you currently carry.
- * You are not currently enrolled in optional life insurance and later wish to elect or re-elect optional life insurance.
- * You are currently enrolled in optional life insurance and elect to increase your coverage, to between 5-8 times your basic annual earnings or above \$400,000, within 60 days of marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption of a child, and are actively at work on the coverage effective date.

You are currently not enrolled in optional life insurance and elect to have coverage between 5-8 times your basic annual earnings or over \$400,000, within 60 days of marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption of a child, and are actively at work on the coverage effective date.

Age reductions apply the first day of the month following your 70th birthday. From ages 70-74, your insurance amount will be reduced to 50% and age 75 and older your insurance amount will be reduced to 25%. Amounts are reduced and rounded to the next higher \$1,000. Optional AD&D terminates at age 70.

DEPENDENT LIFE INSURANCE

Dependent life insurance covers your spouse and eligible dependent children. You may elect one of the following options or choose no coverage at all:

Option 1 -

- Eligible spouse.....\$2,000
- Children under 26 years old:
 - under 31 days.....\$1,000
 - over 30 days but under 26 years.....\$1,000

Option 3 -

- Eligible spouse\$10,000
- Children under 26 years old:
 - under 31 days months.....\$1,000
 - over 30 days but under 26 years \$5,000

Option 2 -

- Eligible spouse \$4,000
- Children under 26 years of age:
 - under 31 days..... \$1,000
 - over 30 days under 26 years.....\$2,000

You are automatically the beneficiary for this insurance. *Please note: If both you and your spouse are eligible for Montgomery County sponsored dependent life insurance, and both of you elect dependent life insurance, benefits for an eligible dependent child will be payable either under your coverage or your spouse’s, but not both.*

PRESCRIPTION (Rx)

With the exception of the Kaiser Permanente option, which provides prescription coverage (see page 30), the medical plans do not provide prescription drug coverage. However, you have the option to elect prescription drug coverage under a separate “stand alone” prescription plan offered through Caremark. Any claims for services must be submitted within one year following the date of service.

Caremark Prescription Plans

There are three Caremark prescription plan options:

- Caremark High Option \$4 / \$8 Prescription Plan (available to IAFF and MCGEO)
- Caremark High Option \$5 / \$10 Prescription Plan (available to unrepresented, FOP and retirees)
- Caremark Standard Option Prescription Plan

For a summary of benefits for these plans, see the chart on page 48.

Note: If you are a retiree and eligible for Medicare, please note the important information regarding the coordination of Medicare with the Prescription Plan on page 28.

Coverage for maintenance medications through Maintenance Choice

A maintenance medication is a medicine taken regularly for chronic conditions or long-term therapy, such as prescriptions for high blood pressure, asthma or diabetes. For the price of one copayment for up to a 90-day supply, you and your covered dependents have the choice of purchasing your maintenance medications via a CVS/pharmacy retail location or Caremark's Mail Service Pharmacy. This program is called "Maintenance Choice."

Note: If you fill a 30-day prescription for a maintenance medication at a participating retail pharmacy more than two times (original fill plus one refill), you must still pay the copayment *plus* the cost difference between mail service and retail pharmacy each time you fill the prescription thereafter. To avoid this extra cost, submit a 90-day script through Maintenance Choice (either at a retail CVS/pharmacy retail location or through mail service).

Limit to drugs prescribed to treat Erectile Dysfunction (ED)

You and your covered dependents are limited to a maximum of 6 doses per month for any drug specifically approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of erectile dysfunction. Any amount above this limit will be paid in full by you. These rules also apply if you take a daily low-dose pill to treat ED.

Coverage for brand name medications that have generic equivalents

You or your covered dependent must receive generic prescription drugs, if available. If you or your covered dependent chooses to receive a brand name drug that has a generic equivalent, you must pay the generic drug copayment plus the difference between the cost of the brand-name drug and the generic drug. This requirement may be waived only if your or your covered dependent's doctor certifies in a separate letter that it is medically necessary to use a brand name drug instead of its generic equivalent.

Follow the steps below to submit a letter of medical necessity to Caremark.

1. Request a letter of medical necessity from your doctor for your brand name prescription. The letter must be written on the doctor's official letterhead (not on the prescription) and must contain your name, date of birth, Caremark plan card ID number and employer name (Montgomery County Government). It must also include details of the medical reason for prescribing the brand name drug in place of the generic drug. It cannot simply state that in his/her medical opinion brand name drugs are better than generic drugs. Also, it is not sufficient to write "dispense as written" or "medically necessary" on the prescription
2. Submit the letter of medical necessity to:

CVS/Caremark, Inc.,
Department of Appeals, MC109
P.O. Box 52084
Phoenix, AZ 85072-2084

You can also fax the letter to Caremark at 1-866-689-3092 or 1-866-443-1172.

3. If the waiver is approved by the Pharmacy Benefit Manager, you will be charged the brand name drug copayment. CVS/Caremark requires yearly updates of medical necessity. If the waiver is not approved, you can appeal the decision at the address/fax listed above.

Caremark High & Standard Option Prescription Plans *At-a-Glance*

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|----------------|------|--|------|--|--|---|---|-------------------|---------|
| <p>Where / how</p> | <p>Retail Pharmacy Network To purchase up to a 30-day supply of a short-term medication, use your Caremark member ID card at over 64,000 participating retail pharmacies (e.g., a CVS, Target, Giant, Safeway, Walgreens or Walmart pharmacy).</p> <p>Maintenance Choice® To purchase up to a 90-day supply of a maintenance medication, use your Caremark member ID card at one of the 7,100 CVS/pharmacy retail locations <u>or</u> use Caremark’s Mail Service Pharmacy.</p> <p>Important: If you fill a 30-day prescription for a maintenance medication at a participating retail pharmacy more than two times (original fill plus one refill), you pay the copayment <i>plus</i> the cost difference between mail service and retail pharmacy each time you fill the prescription thereafter. To avoid this, submit a 90-day script with 3 refills through Maintenance Choice (either at a CVS/pharmacy retail location or through mail service).</p> | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>High Option \$4 / \$8 Plan Copayments IAFF & MCGEO</p> | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Generic drugs:</td> <td>\$4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brand name drugs with no generic:</td> <td>\$4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brand name drugs that have a generic:</td> <td>\$8, if you have an approved letter of medical necessity on file with Caremark. (If not, the cost is \$4 <i>plus</i> the difference between the brand name and generic drug costs.)</td> </tr> </table> | Generic drugs: | \$4 | Brand name drugs with no generic: | \$4 | Brand name drugs that have a generic: | \$8, if you have an approved letter of medical necessity on file with Caremark. (If not, the cost is \$4 <i>plus</i> the difference between the brand name and generic drug costs.) | | | | |
| Generic drugs: | \$4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brand name drugs with no generic: | \$4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brand name drugs that have a generic: | \$8, if you have an approved letter of medical necessity on file with Caremark. (If not, the cost is \$4 <i>plus</i> the difference between the brand name and generic drug costs.) | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>High Option \$5 / \$10 Plan Copayments Unrepresented and, FOP and retirees</p> | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Generic drugs:</td> <td>\$5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brand name drugs with no generic:</td> <td>\$5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brand name drugs that have a generic:</td> <td>\$10, if you have an approved letter of medical necessity on file with Caremark. (If not, the cost is \$5 <i>plus</i> the difference between the brand name and generic drug costs.)</td> </tr> </table> | Generic drugs: | \$5 | Brand name drugs with no generic: | \$5 | Brand name drugs that have a generic: | \$10, if you have an approved letter of medical necessity on file with Caremark. (If not, the cost is \$5 <i>plus</i> the difference between the brand name and generic drug costs.) | | | | |
| Generic drugs: | \$5 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brand name drugs with no generic: | \$5 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brand name drugs that have a generic: | \$10, if you have an approved letter of medical necessity on file with Caremark. (If not, the cost is \$5 <i>plus</i> the difference between the brand name and generic drug costs.) | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Standard Option Plan Copayments</p> <p>➤➤➤ This Plan has an annual deductible of \$50 per individual or family.</p> | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Generic drugs:</td> <td>\$10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brand name PDL^① drugs with no generic:</td> <td>\$20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brand name non-PDL^① drugs with no generic:</td> <td>\$35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brand name drugs that have a generic available:</td> <td>\$20 or \$35, if you have an approved letter of medical necessity on file with Caremark. (If not, the cost is \$10 <i>plus</i> the difference between the brand name and generic drug costs.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Annual Deductible</td> <td>\$50.00</td> </tr> </table> | Generic drugs: | \$10 | Brand name PDL ^① drugs with no generic: | \$20 | Brand name non-PDL ^① drugs with no generic: | \$35 | Brand name drugs that have a generic available: | \$20 or \$35, if you have an approved letter of medical necessity on file with Caremark. (If not, the cost is \$10 <i>plus</i> the difference between the brand name and generic drug costs.) | Annual Deductible | \$50.00 |
| Generic drugs: | \$10 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brand name PDL ^① drugs with no generic: | \$20 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brand name non-PDL ^① drugs with no generic: | \$35 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brand name drugs that have a generic available: | \$20 or \$35, if you have an approved letter of medical necessity on file with Caremark. (If not, the cost is \$10 <i>plus</i> the difference between the brand name and generic drug costs.) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Annual Deductible | \$50.00 | | | | | | | | | | |

① Caremark’s quarterly Performance Drug List (PDL) is available at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ohr; click Benefits, then Employee or Retiree Health Insurance; scroll down to the Prescription Drug information.

FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS

Both the health care and dependent care flexible spending accounts allow you to use before-tax dollars to pay for certain eligible health and dependent care expenses.

With each account, you set aside a certain amount of your money from each paycheck before taxes are calculated. After you incur eligible expenses, you submit a claim with supporting evidence, such as bills or receipts, to the County's third party administrator for reimbursement. You have until April 30th of the following year to submit claims for expenses incurred during each calendar year and until the March 15th following the end of the calendar year to incur expenses applicable to the prior year's election.

The health care and dependent care flexible spending accounts are separate. You must enroll separately in each account and you may not transfer contributions between accounts. Also, in order to participate in these accounts, you must enroll each year. *If you do not make an election, you may not participate in either the health care or dependent care flexible spending account for the upcoming calendar year.*

Health Care Flexible Spending Account

Medical, prescription, dental and vision benefits seldom pay for everything. The health care flexible spending account is for reimbursement of eligible expenses not covered by these benefits, as well as the deductibles and copayments associated with these benefits. The expenses may be incurred by you or any person who qualifies as your dependent under the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. A list of eligible expenses is available in the Internal Revenue Service Publication 502 (*please note that certain expenses associated with premium payments are not eligible under the health care flexible spending account*). You may contribute up to \$2,550 for the year, in whole dollar amounts.

Expenses incurred for over the counter drugs, with the exception of insulin, may not be reimbursed unless you have a doctor's prescription.

Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account

The dependent care flexible spending account is for reimbursement of eligible expenses associated with the care of qualifying individuals that enables you (and your spouse, if you are married) to work.

Qualifying individuals include:

- * Your dependent children under the age of 13. However, in the case of divorced parents, the non-custodial parent cannot receive reimbursements even if the parent claims the exemption and the custodial parent may be entitled to receive reimbursements.
- * Your spouse who is physically or mentally incapable of self care, who resides with you for more than half the year.
- * Your dependent who is physically or mentally incapable of self care, who resides with you for more than half the year.

Eligible expenses are those expenses you pay for household services and for the care of qualifying dependents, provided such expenses enable you (and your spouse, if you are married) to work. If you are married, you and your spouse both must earn income, unless your spouse is disabled or a student. If one spouse earns less than \$5,000 then the benefit is limited to whatever that spouse earned. Examples of eligible expenses include:

- * Household services such as a domestic maid or cook, if those services are provided to qualifying dependents.
- * Day care centers, if they are fully licensed.
- * Babysitters in your home or dependent care provided in the babysitter's home while you (and your spouse, if you are married) are working.

A list of eligible expenses is available in the Internal Revenue Service Publication 503. You may contribute up to \$5,000 for the year, in whole dollar amounts. Payments may not be made to certain individuals, including, someone you can claim as your dependent, or to your child who is under age 19 even if he or she is not your dependent. The payment also can not be to your spouse or to the parent of your child.

Important Internal Revenue Service Rules - The Internal Revenue Service requires you to follow certain rules when participating in either the health care or dependent care flexible spending account:

- * “Use it or lose it” - It is important to carefully estimate your anticipated eligible expenses for the upcoming calendar year. You may incur expenses up until the March 15th following the end of the calendar year. You must request reimbursement by April 30th following the end of the calendar year. If you do not have expenses or request reimbursement by the deadline dates, you will forfeit any money remaining in your account. Leftover money *cannot* be returned to you, nor can it be used the following year.
- * Limited changes to your contributions - The amount you elect for the health care and dependent care flexible spending accounts during Open Enrollment cannot be changed during the year, except under the qualified status change provisions of the Plan. You cannot decrease your contributions to your health care flexible spending account under any circumstance. Therefore, you should plan your contributions carefully.
- * You may be subject to special federal tax filing requirements if you participate in the dependent care flexible spending account. If you use the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account, you may not claim the dependent care credit on your tax return. It is important to consult a tax professional to determine how these requirements may affect you.

PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR DEPENDENTS

Below are the types of documentation required to prove dependent eligibility for coverage:

| For Spouse or Grandfathered Domestic Partner | For Children | For Legal Custody |
|---|---|--|
| To add a Spouse: Official State Marriage Certificate (certified by appropriate State or County Official) | For a Biological Child: State Birth Certificate (must show employee/retiree or spouse/grandfathered domestic partner as parent). For newborns, OHR will accept hospital discharge papers for first 60 days (State birth certificate must then be submitted). | Copy of Court Order granting legal custody |
| To remove a Spouse: Divorce Decree | For an Adopted Child: Copy of Adoption or Placement for Adoption Papers | |
| To remove a Grandfathered Domestic Partner: County's Dissolution of Domestic Partnership Affidavit | For a Step Child: State Birth Certificate (must show employee/retiree or spouse/grandfathered partner as parent), Marriage Certificate and Divorce Decree or Custody Papers | |
| | For a Disabled Child: Medical plan verification of disability prior to age 26 | |

Documentation supporting dependent eligibility is required for initial enrollments of dependents and re-enrollment of dependents after a period of ineligibility. Failure to provide proof of eligibility and supporting documentation will result in termination of coverage. Coverage will not be reinstated except during Open Enrollment or in the event of a qualified status change.

You are responsible for notifying the OHR Health Insurance Team when your dependents are no longer eligible for coverage. If you do not do so within 60 days, this will be considered fraud and you will be responsible for 100% of any claims incurred.

HIPAA PRIVACY NOTICE

Your Information. Your Rights. Our Responsibilities.

This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review it carefully

YOUR RIGHTS

You have the right to:

- Get a copy of your health and claims records.
- Correct your health and claims records.
- Request confidential communication.
- Ask us to limit the information we share.
- Get a list of those with whom we've shared your information.
- Get a copy of this privacy notice.
- Choose someone to act for you.
- File a complaint if you believe your privacy rights have been violated.

YOUR CHOICES

You have some choices in the way that we use and share information as we:

- Answer coverage questions from your family and friends.
- Provide disaster relief.
- Market our services and sell your information.

OUR USES AND DISCLOSURES

We may use and share your information as we:

- Help manage the health care treatment you receive.
- Run our organization.
- Pay for your health services.
- Administer your health plan.
- Help with public health and safety issues.
- Do research.
- Comply with the law.
- Respond to organ and tissue donation requests and work with a medical examiner or funeral director.
- Address workers' compensation, law enforcement and other government requests.
- Respond to lawsuits and legal actions.

YOUR RIGHTS

When it comes to your health information, you have certain rights. This section explains your rights and some of our responsibilities to help you.

Get a copy of health and claims records.

- You can ask to see or get a copy of your health and claims records and other health information we have about you. Ask us how to do this.
- We will provide a copy or a summary of your health and claims records, usually within 30 days of your request. We may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee.

Ask us to correct health and claims records.

- You can ask us to correct your health and claims records if you think they are incorrect or incomplete. Ask us how to do this.
- We may say "no" to your request, but we'll tell you why in writing within 60 days.

Request confidential communications.

- You can ask us to contact you in a specific way (for example, home or office phone) or to send mail to a different address.
- We will consider all reasonable requests, and must say “yes” if you tell us you would be in danger if we do not.

Ask us to limit what we use or share.

- You can ask us not to use or share certain health information for treatment, payment or our operations.
- We are not required to agree to your request, and we may say “no” if it would affect your care.

Get a list of those with whom we’ve shared information.

- You can ask for a list (accounting) of the times we’ve shared your health information for six years prior to the date you ask, who we shared it with and why.
- We will include all the disclosures except for those about treatment, payment, and health care operations, and certain other disclosures (such as any you asked us to make). We’ll provide one accounting a year for free but will charge a reasonable, cost-based fee if you ask for another one within 12 months.

Get a copy of this privacy notice.

- You can ask for a paper copy of this notice at any time, even if you have agreed to receive the notice electronically. We will provide you with a paper copy promptly.

Choose someone to act for you.

- If you have given someone medical power of attorney or if someone is your legal guardian, that person can exercise your rights and make choices about your health information.
- We will make sure the person has this authority and can act for you before we take any action.

File a complaint if you feel your rights are violated.

- You can complain if you feel we have violated your rights by contacting us using the information on Page 1.
- You can file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights by sending a letter to 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, calling 1-877-696-6775 or visiting www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/.
- We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

YOUR CHOICES

For certain health information, you can tell us your choices about what we share. If you have a clear preference for how we share your information in the situations described below, talk to us. Tell us what you want us to do, and we will follow your instructions.

In these cases, you have both the right and choice to tell us to:

- Share information with your family, close friends or others involved in payment for your care.
- Share information in a disaster relief situation.

If you are not able to tell us your preference, for example, if you are unconscious, we may go ahead and share your information if we believe it is in your best interest. We may also share your information when needed to lessen a serious and imminent threat to health or safety.

In these cases, we **never** share your information unless you give us written permission:

- Marketing purposes
- Sale of your information

OUR USES AND DISCLOSURES

How do we typically use or share your health information?

We typically use or share your health information in the following ways.

Help manage the health care treatment you receive.

- We can use your health information and share it with professionals who are treating you.

Example: A doctor sends us information about your diagnosis and treatment plan so we can arrange additional services.

Run our organization.

- We can use and disclose your information to run our organization and contact you when necessary.
- We are not allowed to use genetic information to decide whether we will give you coverage and the price of that coverage. This does not apply to long-term care plans.

Example: We use health information about you to develop better services for you.

Pay for your health services.

- We can use and disclose your health information as we pay for your health services.

Example: We share information about you with your dental plan to coordinate payment for your dental work.

Administer your plan.

- We may disclose your health information to your health plan sponsor for plan administration.

Example: Your company contracts with us to provide a health plan, and we provide your company with certain statistics to explain the premiums we charge.

How else can we use or share your health information?

We are allowed or required to share your information in other ways—usually in ways that contribute to the public good, such as public health and research. We have to meet many conditions in the law before we can share your information for these purposes. For more information see:

www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html.

Help with public health and safety issues.

- We can share health information about you for certain situations such as:
 - Preventing disease
 - Helping with product recalls
 - Reporting adverse reactions to medications
 - Reporting suspected abuse, neglect or domestic violence
 - Preventing or reducing a serious threat to anyone's health or safety

Do research.

- We can use or share your information for health research.

Comply with the law.

- We will share information about you if state or federal laws require it, including with the Department of Health and Human Services if it wants to see that we're complying with federal privacy law.

Respond to organ and tissue donation requests, and work with a medical examiner or funeral director.

- We can share health information about you with organ procurement organizations.
- We can share health information with a coroner, medical examiner or funeral director when an individual dies.

Address workers' compensation, law enforcement and other government requests.

- We can use or share health information about you:
 - For workers' compensation claims

- For law enforcement purposes or with a law enforcement official
- With health oversight agencies for activities authorized by law
- For special government functions such as military, national security and presidential protective services

Respond to lawsuits and legal actions.

We can share health information about you in response to a court or administrative order, or in response to a subpoena.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- **We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your protected health information.**
- **We will let you know promptly if a breach occurs that may have compromised the privacy or security of your information.**
- **We must follow the duties and privacy practices described in this notice and give you a copy of it.**
- **We will not use or share your information other than as described here unless you tell us we can in writing. If you tell us we can, you may change your mind at any time. Let us know in writing if you change your mind.**
- There are additional limitations on how we can use or disclose substance use disorder (SUD) treatment records received from federally assisted SUD treatment programs, called "Part 2 Programs." If we receive or maintain your SUD treatment records, we will not use or disclose them unless such use or disclosure is based on your written consent in connection with the Part 2 Program. Even with this consent, we will follow our privacy practices with respect to your SUD treatment records. Also, we will not use or disclose your SUD treatment records (or related testimony) in a legal proceeding against you without your written consent or a court order after notice and an opportunity to be heard is provided. A court order authorizing such use or disclosure must be accompanied by a subpoena or other legal requirement compelling disclosure before the requested record is used or disclosed.

For more information see: www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/noticepp.html.

CHANGES TO THE TERMS OF THIS NOTICE

We can change the terms of this notice, and the changes will apply to all information we have about you. The new notice will be available upon request, on our website, and we will mail a copy to you.

OTHER INSTRUCTIONS FOR NOTICE

- Date of Notice: February 16, 2026
- Hilary Taylor, Assistant County Attorney Hilary.taylor@montgomerycountymd.gov, 240-777-6731

COMPLAINTS

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may complain to the Plan and to the Office for Civil Rights of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. You won't be retaliated against for filing a complaint. To file a complaint to the Plan, write to:

Montgomery County
 Office of Human Resources – Health Insurance Team
 Executive Office Building 7th Floor
 101 Monroe Street
 Rockville, Maryland 20850

You may also fax the Plan at: 240-777-5131

CONTACT

For more information on the Plan's privacy policies or your rights under HIPAA, contact MC311 Customer Service Representatives, Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.: 240-777-0311 (311 locally) or 1-877-613-5212 toll free; any questions MC311 representatives cannot answer are immediately routed via a service request to the OHR Health Insurance Customer Care Center, Monday through Friday, open 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

NOTICE OF CREDITABLE COVERAGE

Important Notice from Montgomery County 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 Montgomery County and prescription drug coverage available for people with Medicare. It also explains the options you have under Medicare prescription drug coverage and can help you decide whether or not you want to enroll. At the end of this notice is information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage.

There are two important things you need to know about your current coverage and Medicare's prescription drug coverage:

- 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.
- Montgomery County has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the County's group insurance 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.

You should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered, with the coverage and cost of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area.

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

At this time, the County offers Medicare eligible retirees the following prescription plans:

- Caremark High Option Prescription Plan.
- Caremark Standard Option Prescription Plan.
- Prescription coverage available through the Kaiser's Medicare Plus plan.*

If you (and/or your dependents) are eligible for Medicare (including due to disability) and elect to participate in the Caremark High Option Prescription Plan or Standard Option Prescription Plan, you (and/or your dependents) will automatically be enrolled in Medicare Part D. Medicare requires that you have a 21 day period to opt out of Medicare Part D participation. However, if you opt out, you (and your dependents, if applicable) will not have any prescription drug coverage through the County's prescription drug plans. If you elect to participate in the Kaiser plan, this is not applicable.

If you or your Medicare eligible dependent decide to join a Medicare drug plan, coverage under the County plan will terminate for that individual. Therefore, please note that if **you** join a Medicare drug plan, and as a result your County coverage is terminated, **coverage for your dependents will also terminate.** .

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan and you decide to drop your current County coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will only be able to elect coverage at open enrollment..

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 coverage with the County and don't enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage within 63 days after your current coverage ends, you may pay more (a penalty) to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage later.

If you go 63 days or longer without prescription drug coverage determined to be Creditable Coverage, your monthly premium may go up at least 1% per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without coverage, your premium may always be at least 19% higher. You'll have to pay this higher premium as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following November to enroll.

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

The Office of Human Resources, Health Insurance Team
101 Monroe Street, 7th floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Contact MC311 Customer Service Representatives, Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.: 240-777-0311 (311 locally) or 1-877-613-5212 toll free; any questions MC311 representatives cannot answer are immediately routed via a service request to the OHR Health Insurance Customer Care Center, Monday through Friday, open 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

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 Montgomery County 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 prescription drug plans. For details about Medicare prescription drug plans:

- Visit www.medicare.gov
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see 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.

For people with limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. Information about this extra help is available from the Social Security Administration (SSA) online at www.socialsecurity.gov, or you 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 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).

October 2017
Montgomery County Office of Human Resources, Health Insurance Team
101 Monroe Street, 7th floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

NOTICE OF GRANDFATHERED HEALTH PLAN STATUS

Montgomery County Government believes the Plan is a grandfathered health plan under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (the Affordable Care Act). As permitted by the Affordable Care Act, a grandfathered health plan can preserve certain basic health coverage that was already in effect when that law was enacted. Being a grandfathered health plan means that the Plan may not include certain consumer protections of the Affordable Care Act that apply to other plans, for example, the requirement for the provision of preventive health services without any cost sharing. However, grandfathered health plans must comply with certain other consumer protections in the Affordable Care Act, for example, the elimination of lifetime limits on benefits.

Questions regarding which protections apply and which protections do not apply to a grandfathered health plan and what might cause a plan to change from grandfathered health plan status can be directed to the OHR Health Insurance Team by contacting MC311 Customer Service Representatives, Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.: 240-777-0311 (311 locally) or 1-877-613-5212 toll free; any questions MC311 representatives cannot answer are immediately routed via a service request to the OHR Health Insurance Customer Care Center, Monday through Friday, open 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. You may also contact the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at www.healthreform.gov.

WOMEN'S HEALTH AND CANCER RIGHTS ACT OF 1998

The 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? Call the Health Insurance Team for more information.

NEWBORNS' AND MOTHERS' HEALTH PROTECTION ACT OF 1996

Group health plans and health insurance issuers generally may not, under federal law, restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).