

North Carolina
State Health Plan

2025 NEW GROUP

Enrollment Guide

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2025

Welcome to the State Health Plan (Plan).

This guide provides new groups with information regarding the implementation process and other important details on Plan benefits and administration.

To get more detailed information, links to the information available on the Plan's website at www.shpnc.org are included.



Implementation Process

The implementation process begins after a new group's required paperwork to join the State Health Plan is finalized. Please review the Plan's website at www.shpnc.org for more details on the required paperwork. The process generally takes about one month and then a 30-day enrollment period is held to allow employees to enroll in the Plan.

The Plan will work directly with the individual from the new group that is assigned with the responsibilities of administering the State Health Plan benefits. We refer to these individuals as Health Benefits Representatives (HBRs). The role of the HBR is to educate employees on benefits and eligibility information. In addition, the HBR is responsible for administrative tasks associated with benefits and eligibility, including managing employee benefits data, and reconciling group statements and remitting group fees.

The implementation process begins with the Plan reviewing your submitted documentation to determine your group's effective date. Then the Plan will notify the appropriate vendors to set up a new group in the applicable systems. Below is a summary of the process:



STEP ONE

Aetna, the Plan's Third Party Administrator (TPA), will assign a group number.

This number is a unique identifier for the group and will appear on employees' ID cards.

STEP TWO

eBenefits Online Enrollment System: A representative from **Benefitfocus, the Plan's Eligibility and Enrollment vendor**, will contact the HBR to welcome you to eBenefits, the online enrollment system. Benefitfocus will provide training on how to use the system as an administrator. Once training has been successfully completed and an Access Request Form has been submitted, Benefitfocus will assign the HBR a User ID for access to the eBenefits system.

eBenefits is a self-service system. HBRs should not process enrollments or life event changes for employees. If employees are not able to enroll online, they can contact the Eligibility and Enrollment Support Center at **855-859-0966**.

STEP THREE

iTEDIUM: If you have terminated employees that are on COBRA, they are eligible to continue their coverage under the Plan for the remainder of their eligibility period. Please provide them with information on our plans, including rate sheets located at www.shpnc.org. Click on Plans for Active Employees, then select the plan and 100% Contributory Non-Medicare COBRA Subscribers and Other 100% Contributory Subscribers.

If they want to enroll in coverage, you will need to complete the COBRA Takeover Form that is included in your "Welcome email" and return to HBRInquiries@nctreasurer.com. The form will be forwarded to Benefitfocus to create an account in the COBRA

group, so the individual can enroll in coverage. This form can also be completed for former employees who are terminated prior to your group's effective date on the Plan, are still within their 60-day eligibility period to elect COBRA, and would like to enroll in health coverage.

Once an employee is enrolled in health coverage under the Plan and they are terminated, the employee will automatically be sent on the file to iTEDIUM, the COBRA administrator for the Plan, and they will send a COBRA notice to the individual.

STEP FOUR

Group Premium Billing is managed by iTEDIUM. This tool allows HBRs to view and pay their bills quickly, accurately and securely. After training with Benefitfocus and iTEDIUM, you will receive a User ID for access to the system. If you have any questions about billing, you can contact **iTEDIUM** directly at 855-552-6272 or by email at GroupBilling@itedium.com.

The eBilling Guide is located on the HBR tab on the Plan's website under Training and Development. Groups are set up automatically for the invoice to generate on the 15th of the month, but groups can change that date by contacting iTEDIUM directly.



Resources



STATE HEALTH PLAN WEBSITE: www.shpnc.org is a valuable tool that provides information on the Plan's benefits. Please be sure to take time to become familiar with all sections of the website. The Health Benefits Representatives (HBR) tab section contains important information to assist you in carrying out your duties as an HBR.

HBR TRAINING SESSIONS AND WEBINARS: Sign up for these sessions in the Training and Development section under the HBR tab. Please be sure to review the training documents under Additional Resources. The HBR Quick Guide is available to assist HBRs with questions on eligibility enrollment, policies and procedures.

HBR UNIVERSITY: HBR University is the Plan's online learning management tool. New HBRs and others who need access to eBenefits and/or eBilling must follow the process outlined on the Training and Development page under the HBR section of the Plan's website. Check out the library of trainings designed especially for you.

HBR UPDATE NEWSLETTER: The monthly HBR Update e-newsletter contains important benefit information, pharmacy news and health and wellness tips. In addition, HBR Alerts are distributed electronically as needed to HBRs to provide important, time-sensitive information regarding State Health Plan benefits. The HBR for your group will automatically be signed up. Please be sure to notify the State Health Plan of any individuals that need to be removed from our newsletter list by completing the HBR Contact/Access Request Form on the Plan's website under the HBR section.

PERMANENT FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE RESOURCES

NEW EMPLOYEE KIT: This kit is specific for employees of new groups joining the State Health Plan. A copy should be provided to all eligible employees.

NEW EMPLOYEE PRESENTATION: During employee sessions, HBRs can use the new employee presentation located on the Plan's website under the New Employee Resources page. Please make sure they are aware that the "When You Can Enroll" does not apply since the effective date of the coverage for your employees will be the first day of the month of your group's participation date.

NON-PERMANENT FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE RESOURCES

HIGH DEDUCTIBLE HEALTH PLAN (HDHP): Employees that are eligible for this plan will find plan materials and benefit information located on the Plan's website under Employee Benefits.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO KNOW

- Retirees who work as permanent full-time (30 hours or more) employees: NCGS 135-48 (j) provides that a retiree eligible for State Health Plan coverage as an employee on a partially contributory basis is not eligible for coverage as a retiree. They are eligible under the employer for the same plans as permanent full-time employees.
- Retirees who work as non-permanent full-time (30 hours or more) employees as defined by Health Care Reform: NCGS 135-48 (j) provides that a retiree eligible for State Health Plan coverage as a non-permanent full-time employee is not eligible for coverage as a retiree. Employers have the option to offer the HDHP, the Enhanced PPO Plan (80/20) or the Base PPO Plan (70/30).
- Please note: Once the retiree is no longer eligible for health coverage under the employer on a partially contributory basis, he/she may re-enroll in health coverage under the Retirement System within 30 days of the loss of coverage.
- Retirees who return to work and do not meet eligibility requirements as either a permanent full-time employee or non-permanent full-time employee will remain eligible for State Health Plan coverage as a retiree.
- Plan ID Cards (Enhanced PPO Plan (80/20), Base PPO Plan (70/30) & HDHP): Aetna sends out ID cards 10 days prior to the future effective date. In the event that the member does not have an ID card by the participation date and they need to seek medical treatment, the provider can call Aetna at 833-690-1037 to verify coverage. Employees may call to confirm that their ID cards have been mailed.
- The IRS requires all self-insured employers to report the coverage they provide on form 1095 to the IRS and covered individuals. If you are a large employer, you are familiar with form 1095-C. Filling in Part III of 1095-C

becomes a requirement when joining the State Health Plan, as all Plan employers are self-insured employers. If you are a smaller employer and have never had to file 1095 forms, you will need to start filing 1095-B forms to report the coverage you provide. The Plan offers solutions to help you with 1095 reporting, passing along vendor costs to you. We also offer subject matter expertise to help guide you. Whether you choose to join one of our offered solutions or choose to handle reporting on your own, please be aware of the IRS requirement for self-insured employer reporting, utilizing form 1095. This may be a change for you if you have not been previously self-insured.

ENROLLMENT, ELIGIBILITY, AND TERMINATION RULES

The State Health Plan is governed by Chapter 135B, Article 3, Parts 1-5. These statutes authorize the creation of the State Health Plan, detail its administrative structure, and benefits.

New groups must adhere to the enrollment, eligibility, and termination rules established by the Plan. New hires have the option to enroll in health coverage the 1st of the month or the 2nd month following their date of hire. Groups are not allowed to restrict their new hires to only one effective date choice. All permanent full-time employees are eligible for coverage, who are paid from general/special state funds or paid from non-state funds who work 30 or more hours per week for 9 or more months. To learn more about these rules and others, please review the HBR Quick Guide.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS FOR HBRS

HBR Support: 800-422-5249

This line is managed by the HBR Support Team at Benefitfocus. It is dedicated to HBRS to help with questions on plan rules, enrollment, and eligibility.

HBR Billing Support: 855-552-6272

This line is managed by the HBR Support Team at iTEDIUM. It is dedicated to HBRS to help with questions on billing.

Aetna Health Concierge: 833-690-1037

Benefit Questions

CVS Caremark: 888-321-3124

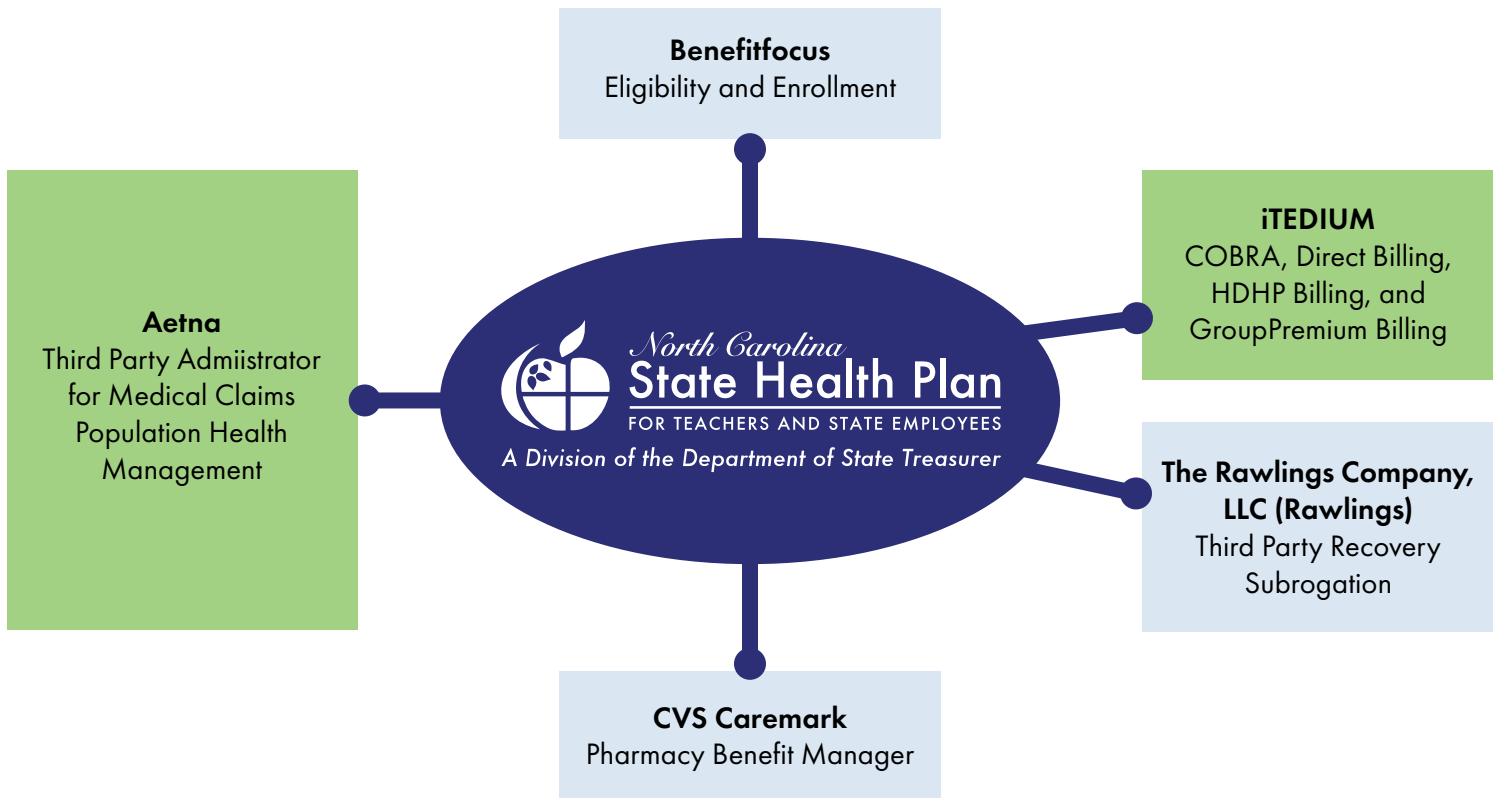
Prescription Benefit Questions

State Health Plan Main Office, 919-814-4400 or email HBRInquiries@nctreasurer.com

For any escalated issues, contact the Plan's office directly.

State Health Plan Vendors

For a complete list, visit www.shpnc.org



STAY IN TOUCH

Don't miss out on the State Health Plan information! We have several ways you can stay informed!

FOLLOW US:



facebook.com/SHPNC



[@nchealthplan](https://www.instagram.com/nchealthplan)



SIGN UP:

Subscribe to Member Focus, the State Health Plan's monthly e-newsletter at www.shpnc.org

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Privacy Practices for The State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees

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.

Original Effective Date: April 14th, 2003

Revised Effective Date: June 10, 2021

Introduction

A federal law, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), requires that we protect the privacy of identifiable health information that is created or received by or on behalf of the Plan. This notice describes the obligations of the Plan under HIPAA, how medical information about you may be used and disclosed, your rights under the privacy provisions of HIPAA, 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 if we:

- Answer coverage questions from your family and friends
- Provide disaster relief
- Market our services or 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 (including medical records, billing records, and any other records used to make decisions regarding your health care benefits) for six years prior to the date you ask, who we shared it with, and why.
- We will include all the disclosures except: (1) disclosures for purposes of treatment, payment, or health care operations; (2) disclosures made to you; (3) disclosures made pursuant to your authorization; (4) disclosures made to friends or family in your presence or because of an emergency; (5) disclosures for national security purposes; and (6) disclosures incidental to otherwise permissible disclosures.
- To request an accounting, you must submit a written request to the Privacy Contact identified in this Notice. Your request must state a time period of no longer than six (6) years.

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, including when you provide your mobile phone number for the express purpose of enrolling in the Plan's texting program. See "SMS Texting Terms and Conditions" for details.
- 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: The Plan may disclose your health information so that your doctors, pharmacies, hospitals, and other health care providers may provide you with medical treatment.

Run our organization

We can use and disclose your information to run our organization (healthcare operations), improve the quality of care we provide, reduce healthcare costs, and contact you when necessary.
Example: The Plan may use and disclose your information to determine the budget for the following year, or to set premiums.

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 CVS Caremark to coordinate payment for your prescriptions.

Administer your plan

We may disclose your health information to your health plan sponsor for plan administration.
Example: Your employer's Health Benefit Representative is provided information to help you understand your health benefits, and help make sure you are enrolled.

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. Research done using Plan information must go through a special review process. We will not use or disclose your information unless we have your authorization, or we have determined that your privacy is protected.

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.

Other Uses and Disclosures

Some uses and disclosures of your will be made only with your written authorization. For example, your written authorization is required in the following instances: (i) any use or disclosure of psychotherapy notes, except as otherwise permitted in 45 C.F.R. 164.508(a)(2); (ii) any use or disclosure for "marketing," except as otherwise permitted in 45 C.F.R. 164.508(a)(3); (iii) any disclosure which constitutes a sale of PHI. If you authorize the Plan to use or disclose your PHI, you may revoke the authorization at any time in writing. However, your revocation will only stop future uses and disclosures that are made after the Plan receive your revocation. It will not have any effect on the prior uses and disclosures of your PHI.

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.

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

Changes to the Terms of this Notice

The Plan has the right to change this notice at any time. The Plan also has the right to make the revised or changed notice effective for medical information the Plan already has about you as well, as any information received in the future. The Plan will post a copy of the current notice at www.shpnc.org. You may request a copy by calling 919-814-4400.

Complaints

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with the Plan or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. You will not be penalized or retaliated against for filing a complaint.

To file a complaint with the Plan, contact the Privacy Contact identified in this Notice.

To file a complaint with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil rights use this contact information:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW.
Room 509F, HHH Building
Washington, DC 20201
1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

File complaint electronically at
<https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>
Complaint forms are available at
<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>

Privacy Contact

The Privacy Contact at the Plan is:
State Health Plan
Attention: HIPAA Privacy Officer
3200 Atlantic Avenue Raleigh, NC 27604
919-814-4400

Enrollment in the Flexible Benefit Plan (under IRS Section 125) for the State Health Plan

Your health benefit coverage can only be changed (dependents added or dropped) during the Open Enrollment period or following a qualifying life event. These events include, but are not limited to the following:

- Your marital status changes due to marriage, death of spouse, divorce, legal separation, or annulment.
- You increase or decrease the number of your eligible dependents due to birth, adoption, placement for adoption, or death of the dependent.
- You, your spouse, or your eligible dependent experiences an employment status change that results in the loss or gain of group health coverage.
- You, your spouse, or your dependents become entitled to Medicare, or Medicaid.
- Your dependent ceases to be an eligible dependent (e.g., the dependent child reaches age 26).
- You, your spouse, or your dependents commence or return from an unpaid leave of absence such as Family and Medical Leave or military leave.
- You receive a qualified medical child support order (as determined by the plan administrator) that requires the plan to provide coverage for your children.
- If you or your dependents change your country of permanent residence by moving to or from the United States, you or your dependents will have 30 days from the date of entering or exiting the United States to change your health benefit plan election.
- If you, your spouse or dependents experience a cost or coverage change under another group health plan for which an election change was permitted, you may make a corresponding election change under the Flex Plan (e.g., your spouse's employer significantly increases the cost of coverage and as a result, allows the spouse to change his/her election).
- If you change employment status such that you are no longer expected to average 30 hours of service per week but you do not lose eligibility for coverage under the State Health Plan (e.g., you are in a stability period during which you qualify as full time), you may still revoke your election provided that you certify that you have or will enroll yourself (and any other covered family members) in other coverage providing minimum essential coverage (e.g., the marketplace) that is effective no later than the first day of the second month following the month that includes the date the original coverage is revoked.
- You may prospectively revoke your State Health Plan election if you certify your intent to enroll yourself and any covered dependents in the marketplace for coverage that is effective beginning no later than the day immediately following the last day of the original coverage that is revoked.
- You or your children lose eligibility under Medicaid or a state Children's Health Insurance Program. In this case you must request enrollment within 60 days of losing eligibility.
- If you, your spouse or your dependent loses eligibility for coverage (as defined by HIPAA) under any group health plan or health insurance coverage (e.g., coverage in the individual market, including the marketplace), you may change your participation election.

In addition, even if you have one of these events, your election change must be "consistent" with the event, as defined by the IRS. Consequently, the election change that you desire may not be permitted if not consistent with the event as determined by IRS rules and regulations. When one of these events occurs, you must complete your request through your online enrollment system within 30 days of the event (except as described above). If you do not process the request within 30 days, you must wait until the next Open Enrollment to make the coverage change.

Notice of HIPAA Special Enrollment Rights

If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance or group health plan coverage, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage (or if the employer stops contributing towards your or your dependents' other coverage). However, you must request enrollment within 30 days after your or your dependents' other coverage ends (or after the employer stops contributing toward the other coverage).

If you have a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents. However, you must request enrollment within 30 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption. If you decline enrollment for yourself or for an eligible dependent (including your spouse) while Medicaid coverage or coverage under a state children's health insurance program is in effect, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after your or your dependents' coverage ends under Medicaid or a state children's health insurance program. If you or your dependents (including your spouse) become eligible for a state premium assistance subsidy from Medicaid or through a state children's health insurance program with respect to coverage under this plan, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after your or your dependents' determination of eligibility for assistance.

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact the Eligibility and Enrollment Support Center at 855-859-0966.

Notice Regarding Mastectomy-Related Services

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

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

These benefits will be provided subject to the same deductibles and coinsurance applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under your elected plan. If you would like more information on WHCRA benefits, call Customer Service.

Notice of Patient Protections for Non-Grandfathered Plans

The following notice applies to plans offered by the North Carolina State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees ("Plan") that are not considered to be a "grandfathered health plan" under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The Plan generally allows the designation of a primary care provider. You have the right to designate any primary care provider who participates in our network and who is available to accept you or your family members. For children, you may designate a pediatrician as the primary care provider. For information on how to select a primary care provider, and for a list of the participating primary care providers, contact Customer Service.

You do not need prior authorization from the Plan or from any other person (including a primary care provider) in order to obtain access to obstetrical or gynecological care from a health care professional in our network who specializes in obstetrics or gynecology.

The health care professional, however, may be required to comply with certain procedures, including obtaining prior authorization for certain services, following a pre-approved treatment plan, or procedures for making referrals. For a list of participating health care professionals who specialize in obstetrics or gynecology, contact Customer Service.

Notice Regarding Availability of Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options (Employer Exchange Notice)

Even if you are offered health coverage through your employment, you may have other coverage options through the Health Insurance Marketplace ("Marketplace"). To assist you as you evaluate options for you and your family, this notice provides some basic information about the Health Insurance Marketplace and health coverage offered through your employment.

What is the Health Insurance Marketplace?

The Marketplace is designed to help you find health insurance that meets your needs and fits your budget. The Marketplace offers "one-stop shopping" to find and compare private health insurance options in your geographic area.

Can I Save Money on my Health Insurance Premiums in the Marketplace?

You may qualify to save money and lower your monthly premium and other out-of-pocket costs, but only if your employer does not offer coverage, or offers coverage that is not considered affordable for you and doesn't meet certain minimum value standards (discussed below). The savings that you're eligible for depends on your household income. You may also be eligible for a tax credit that lowers your costs.

Does Employment-Based Health Coverage Affect Eligibility for Premium Savings through the Marketplace?

Yes. If you have an offer of health coverage from your employer that is considered affordable for you and meets certain minimum value standards, you will not be eligible for a tax credit, or advance payment of the tax credit, for your Marketplace coverage and may wish to enroll in your employment-based health plan. However, you may be eligible for a tax credit, and advance payments of the credit that lowers your monthly premium, or a reduction in certain cost-sharing, if your employer does not offer coverage to you at all or does not offer coverage that is considered affordable for you or meet minimum value standards. If your share of the premium cost of all plans offered to you through your employment is more than 9.12% of your annual household income, or if the coverage through your employment does not meet the "minimum value" standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit, and advance payment of the credit, if you do not enroll in the employment-based health coverage. For family members of the employee, coverage is considered affordable if the employee's cost of premiums for the lowest-cost plan that would cover all family members does not exceed 9.12% of the employee's household income.¹²

Note: If you purchase a health plan through the Marketplace instead of accepting health coverage offered through your employment, then you may lose access to whatever the employer contributes to the employment-based coverage. Also, this employer contribution—as well as your employee contribution to employment-based coverage—is generally excluded from income for federal and state income tax purposes. Your payments for coverage through the Marketplace are made on an after-tax basis. In addition, note that if the health coverage offered through your employment does not meet the affordability or minimum value standards, but you accept that coverage anyway, you will not be eligible for a tax credit. You should consider all of these factors in determining whether to purchase a health plan through the Marketplace.

When Can I Enroll in Health Insurance Coverage through the Marketplace?

You can enroll in a Marketplace health insurance plan during the annual Marketplace Open Enrollment Period. Open Enrollment varies by state but generally starts November 1 and continues through at least December 15.

Outside the annual Open Enrollment Period, you can sign up for health insurance if you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period. In general, you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period if you've had certain qualifying life events, such as getting married, having a baby, adopting a child, or losing eligibility for other health coverage. Depending on your Special Enrollment Period type, you may have 60 days before or 60 days following the qualifying life event to enroll in a Marketplace plan.

There is also a Marketplace Special Enrollment Period for individuals and their families who lose eligibility for Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage on or after March 31, 2023, through July 31, 2024. Since the onset of the nationwide COVID-19 public health emergency, state Medicaid and CHIP agencies generally have not terminated the enrollment of any Medicaid or CHIP beneficiary who was enrolled on or after March 18, 2020, through March 31, 2023. As state Medicaid and CHIP agencies resume regular eligibility and enrollment practices, many individuals may no longer be eligible for Medicaid or CHIP coverage starting as early as March 31, 2023. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is offering a temporary Marketplace Special Enrollment period to allow these individuals to enroll in Marketplace coverage.

Marketplace-eligible individuals who live in states served by HealthCare.gov and either submit a new application or update an existing application on **HealthCare.gov** between March 31, 2023 and July 31, 2024, and attest to a termination date of Medicaid or CHIP coverage within the same time period, are eligible for a 60-day Special Enrollment Period. That means that if you lose Medicaid or CHIP coverage between March 31, 2023, and July 31, 2024, you may be able to enroll in Marketplace coverage within 60 days of when you lost Medicaid or CHIP coverage. In addition, if you or your family members are enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP coverage, it is important to make sure that your contact information is up to date to make sure you get any information about changes to your eligibility. To learn more, visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) or call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596. TTY users can call 1-855-889-4325.

What about Alternatives to Marketplace Health Insurance Coverage?

If you or your family are eligible for coverage in an employment-based health plan (such as an employer-sponsored health plan), you or your family may also be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period to enroll in that health plan in certain circumstances, including if you or your dependents were enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP coverage and lost that coverage. Generally, you have 60 days after the loss of Medicaid or CHIP coverage to enroll in an employment-based health plan, but if you and your family lost eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP coverage between March 31, 2023 and July 10, 2023, you can request this special enrollment in the employment-based health plan through September 8, 2023. Confirm the deadline with your employer or your employment-based health plan.

Alternatively, you can enroll in Medicaid or CHIP coverage at any time by filling out an application through the Marketplace or applying directly through your state Medicaid agency. Visit <https://www.healthcare.gov/medicaid-chip/getting-medicaid-chip/> for more details.

How Can I Get More Information?

For more information about your coverage offered through your employment, please check your health plan's summary plan description or contact Customer Service. The Marketplace can help you evaluate your coverage options, including your eligibility for coverage through the Marketplace and its cost. Please visit **HealthCare.gov** for more information, including an online application for health insurance coverage and contact information for a Health Insurance Marketplace in your area.

Notice Regarding Your Rights and Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills

When you get emergency care or are treated by an out-of-network provider at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, you are protected from balance billing. In these cases, you shouldn't be charged more than your plan's copayments, coinsurance and/or deductible.

What is "balance billing" (sometimes called "surprise billing")?

When you see a doctor or other health care provider, you may owe certain out-of-pocket costs, like a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible. You may have additional costs or have to pay the entire bill if you see a provider or visit a health care facility that isn't in your health plan's network. "Out-of-network" means providers and facilities that haven't signed a contract with your health plan to provide services. Out-of-network providers may be allowed to bill you for the difference between what your plan pays and the full amount charged for a service. This is called "balance billing." This amount is likely more than in-network costs for the same service and might not count toward your plan's deductible or annual out-of-pocket limit. "Surprise billing" is an unexpected balance bill. This can happen when you can't control who is involved in your care—like when you have an emergency or when you schedule a visit at an in-network facility but are unexpectedly treated by an out-of-network provider. Surprise medical bills could cost thousands of dollars depending on the procedure or service.

You are protected from balance billing for:

Emergency services

If you have an emergency medical condition and get emergency services from an out-of-network provider or facility, the most they can bill you is your plan's in-network cost-sharing amount (such as copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles). You can't be balance billed for these emergency services. This includes services you may get after you're in stable condition, unless you give written consent and give up your protections not to be balance billed for these post-stabilization services.

Certain services at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center

When you get services from an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, certain providers there may be out-of-network. In these cases, the most those providers can bill you is your plan's in-network cost-sharing amount. This applies to emergency medicine, anesthesia, pathology, radiology, laboratory, neonatology, assistant surgeon, hospitalist, or intensivist services. These providers can't balance bill you and may not ask you to give up your protections not to be balance billed. If you get other types of services at these in-network facilities, out-of-network providers can't balance bill you, unless you give written consent and give up your protections.

¹ Indexed annually; see <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/rp-23-34.pdf> for 2023.

² An employer-sponsored or other employment-based health plan meets the "minimum value standard" if the plan's share of the total allowed benefit costs covered by the plan is no less than 60 percent of such costs. For purposes of eligibility for the premium tax credit, to meet the "minimum value standard," the health plan must also provide substantial coverage of both inpatient hospital services and physician services.

You're **never** required to give up your protections from **balance billing**. You also aren't required to get care out-of-network. You can choose a provider or facility in your plan's network.

When balance billing isn't allowed, you also have the following protections:

- You're only responsible for paying your share of the cost (like the copayments, coinsurance, and deductible that you would pay if the provider or facility was in-network). Your health plan will pay any additional costs to out-of-network providers and facilities directly. Generally, your health plan generally must:
 - o Cover emergency services without requiring you to get approval for services in advance (also known as "prior authorization").
 - o Cover emergency services by out-of-network providers.
 - o Base what you owe the provider or facility (cost-sharing) on what it would pay an in network provider or facility and show that amount in your explanation of benefits.
 - o Count any amount you pay for emergency services or out-of-network services toward your deductible and out-of-pocket limit.

If you believe you've been wrongly billed, you may contact the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Phone: 800-985-3059) regarding enforcement of federal balance or surprise billing protection laws and the North Carolina Department of Insurance regarding enforcement of North Carolina balance or surprise billing protection laws (Phone: 855-408-1212; Address: 325 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603).

Visit www.cms.gov/nosurprises/consumers for more information about your rights under federal law.

Visit ncdoi.gov for more information about your rights under North Carolina law.

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

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

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

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

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

If you live in one of the following states, you may be eligible for assistance paying your employer health plan premiums. The following list of states is current as of July 31, 2024. Contact your State for more information on eligibility –

ALABAMA – Medicaid	ALASKA – Medicaid
Website: http://myalhipp.com/ Phone: 1-855-692-5447	The AK Health Insurance Premium Payment Program Website: http://myakhipp.com/ Phone: 1-866-251-4861 Email: CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com Medicaid Eligibility: https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/default.aspx
ARKANSAS – Medicaid	CALIFORNIA – Medicaid
Website: http://myarhipp.com/ Phone: 1-855-MyARHIPP (855-692-7447)	Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program Website: http://dhcs.ca.gov/hipp Phone: 916-445-8322 Fax: 916-440-5676 Email: hipp@dhcs.ca.gov
COLORADO – Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) & Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+)	FLORIDA – Medicaid
Health First Colorado Website: https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/ Health First Colorado Member Contact Center: 1-800-221-3943/ State Relay 711 CHP+: https://hcpf.colorado.gov/child-health-plan-plus CHP+ Customer Service: 1-800-359-1991/ State Relay 711 Health Insurance Buy-In Program (HIBI): https://www.mycohibi.com/ HIBI Customer Service: 1-855-692-6442	Website: https://www.flmedicaidtprecovery.com/flmedicaidtprecovery.com/hipp/index.html Phone: 1-877-357-3268
GEORGIA – Medicaid	INDIANA – Medicaid
GA HIPP Website: https://medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp Phone: 678-564-1162, Press 1 GA CHIPRA Website: https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/childrens-health-insurance-program-reauthorization-act-2009-chipra Phone: (678) 564-1162, Press 2	Health Insurance Premium Payment Program All other Medicaid Website: https://www.in.gov/medicaid/ Family and Social Services Administration Website: http://www.in.gov/fssa/df/ Phone: 1-800-403-0864 Member Services Phone: 1-800-457-4584
IOWA – Medicaid and CHIP (Hawki)	KANSAS – Medicaid
Medicaid Website: https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid Medicaid Phone: 1-800-338-8366 Hawki Website: https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid/iowa-health-link/hawki Hawki Phone: 1-800-257-8563 HIPP Website: https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid/fee-service/hipp HIPP Phone: 1-888-346-9562	Website: https://www.kancare.ks.gov/ Phone: 1-800-792-4884 HIPP Phone: 1-800-967-4660

KENTUCKY – Medicaid	LOUISIANA – Medicaid
<p>Kentucky Integrated Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (KI-HIPP) Website: https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.aspx Phone: 1-855-459-6328 Email: KIHIPP.PROGRAM@ky.gov KCHIP Website: https://kynect.ky.gov Phone: 1-877-524-4718 Kentucky Medicaid Website: https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms</p>	<p>Website: www.medicaid.la.gov or www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp Phone: 1-888-342-6207 (Medicaid hotline) or 1-855-618-5488 (LaHIPP)</p>
MAINE – Medicaid	MASSACHUSETTS – Medicaid and CHIP
<p>Website: https://www.mymaineconnection.gov/benefits/s/?language=en_US Phone: 1-800-442-6003 TTY: Maine relay 711 Private Health Insurance Premium Webpage: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms Phone: 1-800-977-6740 TTY: Maine relay 711</p>	<p>Website: https://www.mass.gov/masshealth/pa Phone: 1-800-862-4840 TTY: 711 Email: masspremassistance@accenture.com</p>
MINNESOTA – Medicaid	MISSOURI – Medicaid
<p>Website: https://mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage/ Phone: 1-800-657-3672</p>	<p>Website: www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm Phone: 573-751-2005</p>
MONTANA – Medicaid	NEBRASKA – Medicaid
<p>Website: http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP Phone: 1-800-694-3084 Email: HSHIPPProgram@mt.gov</p>	<p>Website: www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov Phone: 1-855-632-7633 Lincoln: 402-473-7000 Omaha: 402-595-1178</p>
NEVADA – Medicaid	NEW HAMPSHIRE – Medicaid
<p>Medicaid Website: http://dhcftp.nv.gov Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900</p>	<p>Website: https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program Phone: 603-271-5218 Toll free number for the HIPP program: 1-800-852-3345, ext 15218 Email: DHHS.ThirdPartyLiabi@dhhs.nh.gov</p>
NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP	NEW YORK – Medicaid
<p>Medicaid Website: http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/ Phone: 1-800-356-1561 CHIP Premium Assistance Phone: 609-631-2392 CHIP Website: www.njfamilycare.org/index.html CHIP Phone: 1-800-701-0710 (TTY: 711)</p>	<p>Website: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/ Phone: 1-800-541-2831</p>
NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid	NORTH DAKOTA – Medicaid
<p>Website: https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/ Phone: 919-855-4100</p>	<p>Website: https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare Phone: 1-844-854-4825</p>
OKLAHOMA – Medicaid and CHIP	OREGON – Medicaid and CHIP
<p>Website: http://www.insureoklahoma.org Phone: 1-888-365-3742</p>	<p>Website: http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx Phone: 1-800-699-9075</p>
PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid and CHIP	RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid and CHIP
<p>Website: https://www.pa.gov/en/services/dhs/apply-for-medicaid-health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp.html Phone: 1-800-692-7462 CHIP Website: Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (pa.gov) CHIP Phone: 1-800-986-KIDS (5437)</p>	<p>Website: http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/ Phone: 1-855-697-4347, or 401-462-0311 (Direct RlIte Share Line)</p>
SOUTH CAROLINA – Medicaid	SOUTH DAKOTA – Medicaid
<p>Website: https://www.scdhhs.gov Phone: 1-888-549-0820</p>	<p>Website: http://dss.sd.gov Phone: 1-888-828-0059</p>
TEXAS – Medicaid	UTAH – Medicaid and CHIP
<p>Website: https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/financial/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-program Phone: 1-800-440-0493</p>	<p>Website: https://medicaid.utah.gov/upp/ Email: upp@utah.gov Phone: 1-888-222-2542 Adult Expansion Website: https://medicaid.utah.gov/expansion/ Utah Medicaid Buyout Program Website: https://medicaid.utah.gov/buyout-program/ CHIP Website: https://chip.utah.gov/</p>

VERMONT – Medicaid	VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: https://dvha.vermont.gov/members/medicaid/hipp-program Phone: 1-800-250-8427	Website: https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/famis-select or https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-programs Medicaid/CHIP Phone: 1-800-432-5924
WASHINGTON – Medicaid	WEST VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: https://www.hca.wa.gov/ Phone: 1-800-562-3022	Website: https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/ or http://mywvhipp.com/ Medicaid Phone: 304-558-1700 CHIP Toll-free phone: 1-855-MyWVHIPP (1-855-699-8447)
WISCONSIN – Medicaid and CHIP	WYOMING – Medicaid
Website: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm Phone: 1-800-362-3002	Website: https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/programs-and-eligibility/ Phone: 1-800-251-1269

To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since July 31, 2024, or for more information on special enrollment rights, contact either:

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

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

Nondiscrimination and Accessibility Notice

The State Health Plan complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. The State Health Plan does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

The State Health Plan:

- Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:
 - Qualified sign language interpreters
 - Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
 - The State Health Plan website is Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant for the visually impaired.
 - Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:
 - Qualified interpreters
 - Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact the Civil Rights Coordinator identified below (the “Coordinator”): State Health Plan Compliance Officer at 919-814-4400.

If you believe that the State Health Plan has failed to provide these services or discriminated against you, you can file a grievance with the Coordinator. You can file a grievance in person or by mail (Section 1557 Coordinator, 3200 Atlantic Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27604) or email (1557Coordinator@nc treasurer.com).

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, available at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW Room 509F, HHH Building Washington, DC 20201
1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)
File complaint electronically at: <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>
Complaint forms are available at: <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>

ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al **919-814-4400**.

注意: 如果您使用繁體中文, 您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 **919-814-4400**。

CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số **919-814-4400**.

주의: 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. **919-814-4400**.

ATTENTION: Si vous parlez français, des services d'aide linguistique vous sont proposés gratuitement. Appelez le **919-814-4400**.

دعائكم لخدمة اللغويات متاحة مجاناً. إذا كنت تتحدث لغة غير اللغة الإنجليزية، يمكنك الاتصال بخدماتنا مجاناً. **919-814-4400**.

LUS CEEV: Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau **919-814-4400**.

ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните **919-814-4400**.

PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong sa wika nang walang bayad. Tumawag sa **919-814-4400**.

સુચના: જો તમે ગુજરાતી બોલતા હો, તો નિ:શુલ્ક ભાષા સહાય સેવાઓ તમારા માટે ઉપલબ્ધ છે. ફોન કરો **919-814-4400**.

ប្រយ័ត្ន: បើសិនជាអ្នកនិយាយភាសាខ្មែរ, សូមពិនិត្យជូនក្រុមការងារ ដោយមិនគិតថ្លៃសេវា គឺអាចមានសំរាប់ប្រើអ្នក។ ចូរ ទូរស័ព្ទ **919-814-4400**.

ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: **919-814-4400**.

ध्यान दें: यदि आप हिंदी बोलते हैं तो आपके लिए मुफ्त में भाषा सहायता सेवाएं उपलब्ध हैं। **919-814-4400**.

ໄປດຊາບ: ຖ້າວ່າ ທ່ານເວົ້າພາສາ ລາວ, ການບໍລິການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອດ້ານພາສາ, ໃດຍບໍ່ເສັຽຄ່າ, ແມ່ນມີພ້ອມໃຫ້ທ່ານ. ໂທ **919-814-4400**.

注意事項: 日本語を話される場合、無料の言語支援をご利用いただけます。 **919-814-4400**.

CONTACT US

Eligibility and Enrollment Support Center
(eBenefits questions): **855-859-0966**
8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday

Aetna Health Concierge
(Customer Service): **833-690-1037**
8 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Friday

CVS Caremark
(pharmacy benefit questions):
888-321-3124