General Health Notices

October 1, 2017

Special Enrollment

If you are declining enrollment for you or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance coverage, you may, in the future, be able to enroll you or your dependents in the plan, provided that your request enrollment within 30 days after your other coverage ends (COBRA or state continuation coverage ends, divorce, legal separation, death, termination of employment or reduction in hours worked; or because the employer contributions cease).

In addition, if you have a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll you and your dependents, provided you request enrollment within 30 days after the marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption.

If you decline enrollment for yourself or for your dependents (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 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 such assistance.

If you have any questions, please contact your plan administrator at the district office.

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Michelle's Law

Michelle's Law prohibits the termination of health coverage if the child takes a medically necessary leave of absence from school or changes to part-time status. The leave of absence must:

- Be medically necessary (and certified by a physician as medically necessary)
- Commence while the child is suffering from a serious illness or injury
- Cause the child to lose student status for the purposes of coverage under the plan (either from an absence from school or reducing his/her course load to part time)

To take advantage of the extension, the child must be enrolled in the group health plan by being a student at a post-secondary educational institution immediately before the first day of the leave. Coverage must extend for one year after the first day of the leave (or, if earlier, the date coverage would otherwise terminate under the plan). The student on leave is entitled to the same benefits as if they had not taken a leave. If coverage changes during the student's leave, then this law applies in the same manner as the prior coverage.

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).

Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA)

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 an individual receiving mastectomy-related benefits, coverage will be provided in a manner determined by consultation with the attending physician and patient for:

- All stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy was performed
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce an asymmetrical appearance
- Prostheses
- Treatment of physical complications of the mastectomy, including lymphedema in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient

Health Care Reform Notices

Lifetime Limits

The lifetime limit on the dollar value of benefits under the Southwestern OH EPC Health Plan no longer applies. Individuals whose coverage ended by reason of reaching a lifetime limit under the plan are eligible to enroll in the plan. Individuals have 30 days from the date of this notice to request enrollment. For more information contact the plan administrator at your district office.

Choice of Primary Care Physician

The Plan generally allows the designation of a primary care provider (PCP). 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 information on how to select a primary care provider, and for a list of the participating primary care providers, contact the telephone number on the back of your ID card or refer to the insurance carrier's website. For children, you may designate a pediatrician as the primary care provider.

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. For a list of participating health care professionals who specialize in obstetrics or gynecology, contact the telephone number on the back of your ID card or refer to the insurance carrier's website.

Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (2008)

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) prohibits discrimination in group health plan coverage based on genetic information.

GINA expands the genetic information protections included in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). HIPAA prevents a plan or issuer from imposing a preexisting condition exclusion provision based solely on genetic information, and prohibits discrimination in individual eligibility, benefits or premiums based on any health factor (including genetic information).

GINA provides group health plans and health insurance issuers cannot base premiums for an employer or a group of similarly situated individuals on genetic information. (However, premiums may be increased for the group based upon the manifestation of a disease or disorder of an individual enrolled in the plan.)

GINA also generally prohibits plans and issuers from requesting or requiring an individual to undergo a genetic test. However, a health care professional providing health care services to an individual is permitted to request a genetic test. Additionally, genetic testing information may be requested to determine payment of a claim for benefits, although the regulations make clear the plan or issuer may request only the minimum amount of information necessary in order to determine payment. There is also a research exception that permits a plan or issuer to request (but not require) a participant or beneficiary undergo a genetic test.

GINA also prohibits a plan from collecting genetic information (including family medical history) prior to, or in connection with enrollment, or for underwriting purposes. Thus, under GINA, plans and issuers generally are prohibited from offering rewards in return for collection of genetic information, including family medical history information collected as part of a Health Risk Assessment (HRA). The regulations provide several examples illustrating GINA's application to HRAs.

An exception is included for incidental collection, provided the information is not used for underwriting. However, the regulations make clear the incidental collection exception is not available if it is reasonable for the plan or issuer to anticipate that health information will be received in response to a collection, unless the collection explicitly states that genetic information should not be provided.

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