

## **Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 Notification**

In 1998, the U.S. Congress passed the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 that provides coverage for reconstructive surgery and related services following a mastectomy in conjunction with a diagnosis of breast cancer.

In the case of a covered person receiving benefits under their plan in connection with a mastectomy and who elects breast reconstruction, coverage will be provided in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient for:

- Coverage will be provided for the reconstructive surgery of the breast on which a mastectomy has been performed.
  - Coverage will be provided for surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance.
  - Coverage will be provided for prostheses and physical complications through all stages of a mastectomy, including swelling associated with the removal of lymph nodes.
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## **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 if applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under Federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

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## **Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA)**

GINA prohibits employers and other entities covered by GINA from requesting or requiring genetic information of an individual or family member of the individual, except as specifically allowed by this law. To comply with this law, we are asking that you not provide any genetic information when responding to this request. "Genetic information" as defined by GINA, includes an individual's family medical history, the results of an individual's or family member's genetic tests, the fact that an individual or an individual's family member sought or received genetic services, and genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or an individual's family member or an embryo lawfully held by an individual or family member receiving assistive reproductive services. Please do not include any family medical history or any information related to genetic testing, genetic services, genetic counseling or genetic diseases for which an individual may be at risk

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

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

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

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

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

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**You may be eligible for assistance paying your employer health plan premiums. In Texas, contact information regarding eligibility is listed below.**

Website: <http://gethipptexas.com/>

Phone: 1-800-440-0493

For information about premium assistance in other states, or for more information on special enrollment rights, contact either:

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

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



BlueCross BlueShield  
of Texas

## Important Notice

### Initial Notice About Special Enrollment Rights in Your Group Health Plan

A federal law called Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires that we notify you about very important provisions in the plan. You have the right to enroll in the plan under its “special enrollment provision” without being considered a late enrollee if you acquire a new dependent or if you decline coverage under this plan for yourself or an eligible dependent while other coverage is in effect and later lose that other coverage for certain qualifying reasons. Section I of this notice may not apply to certain self-insured, non-federal governmental plans. Contact your employer or plan administrator for more information.

#### A. SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PROVISIONS

**Loss of Other Coverage (Excluding Medicaid or a State Children’s Health Insurance Program)** If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your eligible 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 you move out of an HMO service area, or the employer stops contributing toward your or your dependents’ other coverage). However, you must request enrollment within 31 days after your or your dependents’ other coverage ends (or move out of the prior plan’s HMO service area, or after the employer stops contributing toward the other coverage).

**Loss of Coverage For Medicaid or a State Children’s Health Insurance Program**

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.

**New Dependent by Marriage, Birth, Adoption, or Placement for Adoption**

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 in this plan. However, you must request enrollment within 31 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

**Eligibility for State Premium Assistance for Enrollees of 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.

**To request special enrollment or obtain more information, call Customer Service at the phone number on the back of your Blue Cross and Blue Shield ID card.**

## Grandfathered Health Plan Notice

Your employer believes this health 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 your health 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 your employer's benefits administrator.