

# Benefits Notices

---

# Health Insurance Exchange Notice

---

*For Employers Who Offer a Health Plan to Some or All Employees*

## New Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage

### PART A: General Information

When key parts of the health care law took effect in 2014, there was a new way to buy health insurance: The Health Insurance Marketplace. To assist you as you evaluate options for you and your family, this notice provides some basic information about the new Marketplace and employment-based health coverage offered by your employer.

#### ***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. You may also be eligible for a new kind of tax credit that lowers your monthly premium right away. Open enrollment for health insurance coverage through the Marketplace takes place November 1, 2019 - December 15, 2019.

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

You may qualify to save money and lower your monthly premium, but only if your employer does not offer coverage, or offers coverage that doesn't meet certain standards. The savings on your premium that you're eligible for depends on your household income.

#### ***Does Employer Health Coverage Affect Eligibility for Premium Savings through the Marketplace?***

Yes. If you have an offer of health coverage from your employer that meets certain standards, you will not be eligible for a tax credit through the Marketplace and may wish to enroll in your employer's health plan. However, you may be eligible for a tax 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 meets certain standards. If the cost of a plan from your employer that would cover you (and not any other members of your family) is more than 9.5% of your household income for the year, or if the coverage your employer provides does not meet the "minimum value" standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit.<sup>1</sup>

**Note:** If you purchase a health plan through the Marketplace instead of accepting health coverage offered by your employer, then you may lose the employer contribution (if any) to the employer-offered coverage. Also, this employer contribution -as well as your employee contribution to employer-offered coverage- is often excluded from income for Federal and State income tax purposes. Your payments for coverage through the Marketplace are made on an after-tax basis.

### How Can I Get More Information?

For more information about your coverage offered by your employer, please check your summary plan description or contact:

---

<sup>1</sup> An employer-sponsored 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.

Rose Thomason  
 400 SW 25th Avenue  
 Mineral Wells, Texas 76087  
 (940) 328-6501  
 RThomason@ppgh.com

The Marketplace can help you evaluate your coverage options, including your eligibility for coverage through the Marketplace and its cost. Please visit [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) for more information, including an online application for health insurance coverage and contact information for a Health Insurance Marketplace in your area.

### PART B: Information About Health Coverage Offered by Your Employer

This section contains information about any health coverage offered by your employer. If you decide to complete an application for coverage in the Marketplace, you will be asked to provide this information. This information is numbered to correspond to the Marketplace application.

3. Employer name Palo Pinto General Hospital	4. Employer Identification Number (EIN) 00-0000000	
5. Employer address 400 SW 25th Avenue	6. Employer phone number (940) 325-7891	
7. City Mineral Wells	8. State Texas	9. ZIP code 76067
10. Who can we contact about employee health coverage at this job? Rose Thomason		
11. Phone number (940) 328-6501	12. Email address RThomason@ppgh.com	

Here is some basic information about health coverage offered by this employer:

- As your employer, we offer a health plan to:
  - All eligible employees.
- With respect to dependents:
  - We do offer coverage. Eligible dependents are: See Plan Document

If checked, this coverage meets the minimum value standard, and the cost of this coverage to you is intended to be affordable, based on employee wages.

Note: Even if your employer intends your coverage to be affordable, you may still be eligible for a premium discount through the Marketplace. The Marketplace will use your household income, along with other factors, to determine whether you may be eligible for a premium discount. If, for example, your wages vary from week to week (perhaps you are an hourly employee or you work on a commission basis), if you are newly employed mid-year, or if you have other income losses, you may still qualify for a premium discount.

# Aviso de Intercambio de Seguros de Salud

---

*Para los empleadores que ofrecen un plan de salud a algunos o a todos los empleados*

## Nuevas opciones de cobertura en el mercado de seguros médicos y su cobertura médica

### PARTE A: Información general

Cuando entraron en vigencia las partes clave de la ley de salud en el 2014, hubo una nueva forma de adquirir seguros médicos: a través del mercado de seguros médicos. A fin de ayudarle mientras evalúa las opciones para usted y su familia, este aviso brinda información básica sobre el nuevo mercado y la cobertura médica basada en el empleo que brinda su empleador.

#### ***¿Qué es el mercado de seguros médicos?***

El mercado está diseñado para ayudarle a encontrar un seguro médico que satisfaga sus necesidades y se ajuste a su presupuesto. El mercado ofrece opciones de compra en un solo sitio, para buscar y comparar opciones de seguros médicos privados. También es posible que sea elegible para un nuevo tipo de crédito tributario que reduce su prima mensual de inmediato. La inscripción abierta para cobertura de seguro de salud a través del Mercado se lleva a cabo del 1 de noviembre de 2019 al 15 de diciembre de 2019.

#### ***¿Puedo ahorrar dinero en las primas del seguro médico que ofrece el mercado?***

Es posible que tenga la oportunidad de ahorrar dinero y reducir su prima mensual, pero solo si su empleador no ofrece cobertura médica u ofrece una cobertura que no cumple con determinadas normas. Los ahorros en la prima por la cual puede ser elegible dependen de los ingresos de su familia.

#### ***¿La cobertura médica del empleador afecta la elegibilidad para los ahorros en la prima a través del mercado?***

Sí. Si su empleador brinda cobertura médica que cumple con determinadas normas, no será elegible para un crédito tributario a través del mercado y es posible que desee inscribirse en el plan de salud de su empleador. No obstante, es posible que sea elegible para un crédito tributario que reduce la prima mensual o para una reducción en la cuota de los costos si su empleador no brinda cobertura o no brinda cobertura que cumple con determinadas normas. Si el costo del plan de su empleador que le brindaría cobertura a usted (y no, a los demás miembros de la familia) supera el 9.5 % del ingreso anual de su familia, o si la cobertura médica que brinda su empleador no cumple con la norma de "valor mínimo" establecida por la Ley del Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Precio (Affordable Care

Act o ACA, por sus siglas en inglés), es posible que sea elegible para un crédito tributario.<sup>†</sup>

**Nota:** Si adquiere un plan de salud a través del mercado en lugar de aceptar la cobertura médica que brinda su empleador, es posible que pierda las contribuciones (si las hay) que el empleador da para la cobertura médica que brinda. Además, las contribuciones del empleador (así como sus las contribuciones como empleado para la cobertura médica que brinda el empleador) a menudo se excluyen del ingreso sujeto impuesto federal y estatal. Los pagos para la cobertura médica a través del mercado se realizan después de impuestos.

### ¿Cómo puedo obtener más información?

Para obtener más información sobre la cobertura que brinda el empleador, consulte el resumen de la descripción del Plan o comuníquese con:

Rose Thomason  
400 SW 25th Avenue  
Mineral Wells, Texas 76087  
(940) 328-6501  
RThomason@ppgh.com

El mercado puede ayudarlo a evaluar sus opciones de cobertura, incluida su elegibilidad para la cobertura a través del mercado y sus costos. Visite [CuidadoDeSalud.gov](http://CuidadoDeSalud.gov) para obtener más información, incluida una solicitud en línea de cobertura de seguros médicos e información de contacto para un mercado de seguros médicos en su área.

## PARTE B: Información sobre la cobertura médica que brinda su empleador

Esta sección incluye información sobre la cobertura médica que brinda su empleador. Si decide completar una solicitud de cobertura médica en el mercado, deberá brindar esta información. Esta información está enumerada de forma tal que coincida con la solicitud del mercado.

3. Nombre del empleador Palo Pinto General Hospital	4. Número de identificación del empleador (EIN, por sus siglas en inglés) 00-0000000	
5. Dirección del empleador 400 SW 25th Avenue	6. Número de teléfono del empleador (940) 325-7891	
7. Ciudad Mineral Wells	8. Estado Texas	9. Código postal 76067

---

<sup>†</sup> Un plan de salud patrocinado por el empleador cumple con la "norma de valor mínimo" si la participación del plan en los costos totales de beneficios permitidos cubiertos por el plan no es inferior al 60 por ciento de dichos costos.

10. ¿Con quién podemos comunicarnos en relación con la cobertura médica del empleado en este empleo? Rose Thomason	
11. Número de teléfono (si difiere del que figura arriba) (940) 328-6501	12. Dirección de correo electrónico RThomason@ppgh.com

A continuación, encontrará información básica sobre la cobertura médica que brinda este empleador:

- Como su empleador, ofrecemos un plan de salud para los siguientes:
  - Todos los empleados elegibles.
  
- En cuanto a los dependientes:
  - Sí ofrecemos cobertura médica. Los dependientes elegibles son los siguientes: See Plan Document

Si marca esta opción, esta cobertura médica cumple con la norma de valor mínimo. Asimismo, el costo de la cobertura se pretende que sea asequible para usted según los salarios de los empleados.

Nota: Incluso si el objetivo de su empleador es brindarle cobertura asequible, es posible que sea elegible para obtener un descuento en la prima a través del mercado. El mercado utilizará el ingreso de su grupo familiar, junto con otros factores, para determinar si es elegible para recibir un descuento en la prima. Si, por ejemplo, sus salarios varían de una semana a la otra (tal vez es un empleado por hora o trabaja con comisiones), si fue contratado recientemente a mitad de año o si tiene otras pérdidas de ingreso, aún así es posible que reúna los requisitos para recibir un descuento en la prima.

## Notice of 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 toward 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 or your dependent(s) lose coverage under a state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or Medicaid, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after the loss of CHIP or Medicaid coverage.

If you or your dependent(s) become eligible to receive premium assistance under a state CHIP or Medicaid, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days of the determination of eligibility for premium assistance from state CHIP or Medicaid.

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact Rose Thomason at 400 SW 25th Avenue, Mineral Wells, Texas 76087, (940) 328-6501, [RThomason@ppgh.com](mailto:RThomason@ppgh.com).

# Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act (WHCRA) Notices

---

## Enrollment Notice

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 this plan. Therefore, the following deductibles and coinsurance apply: \$See plan document deductible (in-network) and see plan document% coinsurance (in-network). If you would like more information on WHCRA benefits, call your plan administrator at (940) 328-6501.

## Annual Notice

Do you know that your 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 your plan administrator at (940) 328-6501 for more information.



## Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) Disclosure

---

The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 generally requires group health plans and health insurance issuers to ensure that financial requirements (such as co-pays and deductibles) and treatment limitations (such as annual visit limits) applicable to mental health or substance use disorder benefits are no more restrictive than the predominant requirements or limitations applied to substantially all medical/surgical benefits. For information regarding the criteria for medical necessity determinations made under the Palo Pinto General Hospital Welfare Benefit Plan with respect to mental health or substance use disorder benefits, please contact your plan administrator at (940) 328-6501.

# Employer’s Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Notice

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

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

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

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

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

---

**You may be eligible for assistance paying your employer health plan premiums. The following list of states is current as of July 31, 2019. Contact your State for more information on eligibility —**

<b>TEXAS – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://gethipptexas.com/">http://gethipptexas.com/</a> Phone: 1-800-440-0493

To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since July 31, 2019, 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

# Programa de Seguro de Salud para Niños del Empleador (CHIP)

## Asistencia con las primas bajo Medicaid y el Programa de Seguro de Salud para Menores (CHIP)

Si usted o sus hijos son elegibles para Medicaid o CHIP y usted es elegible para cobertura médica de su empleador, su estado puede tener un programa de asistencia con las primas que puede ayudar a pagar por la cobertura, utilizando fondos de sus programas Medicaid o CHIP. Si usted o sus hijos no son elegibles para Medicaid o CHIP, usted no será elegible para estos programas de asistencia con las primas, pero es probable que pueda comprar cobertura de seguro individual a través del mercado de seguros médicos. Para obtener más información, visite [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

Si usted o sus dependientes ya están inscritos en Medicaid o CHIP y usted vive en uno de los estados enumerados a continuación, comuníquese con la oficina de Medicaid o CHIP de su estado para saber si hay asistencia con primas disponible.

Si usted o sus dependientes NO están inscritos actualmente en Medicaid o CHIP, y usted cree que usted o cualquiera de sus dependientes puede ser elegible para cualquiera de estos programas, comuníquese con la oficina de Medicaid o CHIP de su estado, llame al **1-877-KIDS NOW** o visite [www.insurekidsnow.gov](http://www.insurekidsnow.gov) para información sobre como presentar su solicitud. Si usted es elegible, pregunte a su estado si tiene un programa que pueda ayudarle a pagar las primas de un plan patrocinado por el empleador.

Si usted o sus dependientes son elegibles para asistencia con primas bajo Medicaid o CHIP, y también son elegibles bajo el plan de su empleador, su empleador debe permitirle inscribirse en el plan de su empleador, si usted aún no está inscrito. Esto se llama oportunidad de “inscripción especial”, y **usted debe solicitar la cobertura dentro de los 60 días de haberse determinado que usted es elegible para la asistencia con las primas**. Si tiene preguntas sobre la inscripción en el plan de su empleador, comuníquese con el Departamento del Trabajo electrónicamente a través de [www.askebsa.dol.gov](http://www.askebsa.dol.gov) o llame al servicio telefónico gratuito **1-866-444-EBSA (3272)**.

---

**Puede ser elegible para recibir asistencia para pagar las primas del plan de salud de su empleador. La siguiente es una lista de estados actualizada al 31 de julio de 2019. Comuníquese con su estado para obtener más información sobre la elegibilidad**

<b>TEXAS – Medicaid</b>
Sitio web: <a href="http://pontehiptexas.com/">http://pontehiptexas.com/</a> Teléfono: 1-800-440-0493

Para saber si otros estados han agregado el programa de asistencia con primas desde el 31 de julio de 2019, o para obtener más información sobre derechos de inscripción especial, comuníquese con alguno de los siguientes:

**Departamento del Trabajo de EE.UU.**  
Administración de Seguridad de Beneficios de los Empleados  
[www.dol.gov/agencias/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/agencias/ebsa)  
1-866-444-EBSA (3272)

**Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de EE.UU.**  
Centros para Servicios de Medicare y Medicaid  
[www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov)  
1-877-267-2323, opción de menú 4, Ext. 61565

## Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act Notice

---

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 insurance issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

## Medicare Part D Creditable Coverage Notice

---

### Important Notice from Palo Pinto General Hospital 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 Palo Pinto General Hospital and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether or not you want to join a Medicare drug plan. If you are considering joining, you should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered at what cost, with the coverage and costs of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.

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

1. Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or join a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO) that offers prescription drug coverage. All Medicare drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.
2. Palo Pinto General Hospital has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Palo Pinto General Hospital Welfare Benefit 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 15<sup>th</sup> to December 7<sup>th</sup>.

However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan.

### What Happens to Your Current Coverage If You Decide to Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your current Palo Pinto General Hospital coverage will not be affected. Plan participants can keep their prescription drug coverage under the group health plan if they select Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage. If they select Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage, the group health plan prescription drug coverage will coordinate with the Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Palo Pinto General Hospital coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will be able to get this coverage back.

## When Will You Pay a Higher Premium (Penalty) to Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

You should also know that if you drop or lose your current coverage with Palo Pinto General Hospital and don't join a Medicare drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan later.

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the Medicare base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without creditable coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

## For More Information About This Notice or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage

Contact the person listed below for further information call Rose Thomason at (940) 328-6501. 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 Palo Pinto General Hospital changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

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

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

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

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

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

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

Date: 10/17/2019

Name of Entity/Sender: Palo Pinto General Hospital

Contact--Position/Office: Rose Thomason, Chief HR Officer

Address: 400 SW 25th Avenue Mineral Wells, Texas 76087

Phone Number: (940) 328-6501

# Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) Disclosures

---

## Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (“GINA”) protects employees against discrimination based on their genetic information. Unless otherwise permitted, your Employer may not request or require any genetic information from you or your family members.

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) prohibits employers and other entities covered by GINA Title II 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 for medical information. “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.

# General Notice of COBRA Rights

---

*(For use by single-employer group health plans)*

## Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA

### Introduction

You're getting this notice because you recently gained coverage under a group health plan (the Plan). This notice has important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. **This notice explains COBRA continuation coverage, when it may become available to you and your family, and what you need to do to protect your right to get it.** When you become eligible for COBRA, you may also become eligible for other coverage options that may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage.

The right to COBRA continuation coverage was created by a federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). COBRA continuation coverage can become available to you and other members of your family when group health coverage would otherwise end. For more information about your rights and obligations under the Plan and under federal law, you should review the Plan's Summary Plan Description or contact the Plan Administrator.

**You may have other options available to you when you lose group health coverage.** For example, you may be eligible to buy an individual plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace. By enrolling in coverage through the Marketplace, you may qualify for lower costs on your monthly premiums and lower out-of-pocket costs. Additionally, you may qualify for a 30-day special enrollment period for another group health plan for which you are eligible (such as a spouse's plan), even if that plan generally doesn't accept late enrollees.

### What is COBRA continuation coverage?

COBRA continuation coverage is a continuation of Plan coverage when it would otherwise end because of a life event. This is also called a "qualifying event." Specific qualifying events are listed later in this notice. After a qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage must be offered to each person who is a "qualified beneficiary." You, your spouse, and your dependent children could become qualified beneficiaries if coverage under the Plan is lost because of the qualifying event. Under the Plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation coverage must pay for COBRA continuation coverage.

If you're an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

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

If you're the spouse of an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- Your spouse dies;
- Your spouse's hours of employment are reduced;
- Your spouse's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- Your spouse becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); or



- You become divorced or legally separated from your spouse.

Your dependent children will become qualified beneficiaries if they lose coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- The parent-employee dies;
- The parent-employee's hours of employment are reduced;
- The parent-employee's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- The parent-employee becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (Part A, Part B, or both);
- The parents become divorced or legally separated; or
- The child stops being eligible for coverage under the Plan as a "dependent child."

### When is COBRA continuation coverage available?

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to qualified beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator has been notified that a qualifying event has occurred. The employer must notify the Plan Administrator of the following qualifying events:

- The end of employment or reduction of hours of employment;
- Death of the employee;
- The employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both).

**For all other qualifying events (divorce or legal separation of the employee and spouse or a dependent child's losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), you must notify the Plan Administrator within 60 days after the qualifying event occurs. You must provide this notice to:**

**Rose Thomason  
Chief HR Officer  
400 SW 25th Avenue  
Mineral Wells, Texas 76087  
(940) 328-6501  
RThomason@ppgh.com**

### How is COBRA continuation coverage provided?

Once the Plan Administrator receives notice that a qualifying event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. Each qualified beneficiary will have an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. Covered employees may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their spouses, and parents may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their children.

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage that generally lasts for 18 months due to employment termination or reduction of hours of work. Certain qualifying events, or a second qualifying event during the initial period of coverage, may permit a beneficiary to receive a maximum of 36 months of coverage.

There are also ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended:

### Disability extension of 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by Social Security to be disabled and you notify the Plan Administrator in a timely fashion, you and your entire family may be entitled to get up to

an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 29 months. The disability would have to have started at some time before the 60th day of COBRA continuation coverage and must last at least until the end of the 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage.

### Second qualifying event extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage

If your family experiences another qualifying event during the 18 months of COBRA continuation coverage, the spouse and dependent children in your family can get up to 18 additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 36 months, if the Plan is properly notified about the second qualifying event. This extension may be available to the spouse and any dependent children getting COBRA continuation coverage if the employee or former employee dies; becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); gets divorced or legally separated; or if the dependent child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child. This extension is only available if the second qualifying event would have caused the spouse or dependent child to lose coverage under the Plan had the first qualifying event not occurred.

### Are there other coverage options besides COBRA Continuation Coverage?

Yes. Instead of enrolling in COBRA continuation coverage, there may be other coverage options for you and your family through the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicaid, or other group health plan coverage options (such as a spouse's plan) through what is called a "special enrollment period." Some of these options may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage. You can learn more about many of these options at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

### If you have questions

Questions concerning your Plan or your COBRA continuation coverage rights should be addressed to the contact or contacts identified below. For more information about your rights under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), including COBRA, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) in your area or visit [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa). (Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website.) For more information about the Marketplace, visit [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

### Keep your Plan informed of address changes

To protect your family's rights, let the Plan Administrator know about any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator.

### Plan contact information

Palo Pinto General Hospital Welfare Benefit Plan  
Rose Thomason  
400 SW 25th Avenue  
Mineral Wells, Texas 76087  
(940) 328-6501  
RThomason@ppgh.com

# Modelo de aviso general de los derechos de la cobertura de continuación de COBRA

---

*(para que usen los planes de salud grupales de un solo empleador)*

## **\*\*Derechos de la cobertura de continuación conforme a la ley COBRA\*\***

### Introducción

Le enviamos este aviso porque recientemente obtuvo la cobertura de un plan de salud grupal (el Plan). Este aviso contiene información importante acerca de su derecho a recibir la cobertura de continuación de COBRA, que es una extensión temporal de la cobertura del Plan. **Este aviso explica la cobertura de continuación de COBRA, el momento en el que usted y su familia pueden recibirla, y lo que usted puede hacer para proteger su derecho a obtenerla.** Al ser elegible para la cobertura de COBRA, también puede ser elegible para otras opciones que pueden costarle menos que la cobertura de continuación de COBRA.

El derecho a recibir la cobertura de continuación de COBRA se originó gracias a una ley federal, la Ley Ómnibus Consolidada de Reconciliación Presupuestaria (COBRA, por sus siglas en inglés) de 1985. Usted y otros familiares suyos pueden disponer de la cobertura de continuación de COBRA cuando se termine la cobertura de salud grupal. Para obtener más información acerca de sus derechos y obligaciones conforme al Plan y a la ley federal, debe revisar el resumen de la descripción del Plan o comunicarse con el administrador del Plan.

**Al perder la cobertura de salud grupal, puede haber otras opciones disponibles.** Por ejemplo, puede ser elegible para comprar un plan individual a través del mercado de seguros médicos. Al inscribirse en la cobertura a través del mercado de seguros médicos, puede cumplir con los requisitos para tener menores costos en las primas mensuales y gastos propios más bajos. Asimismo, puede tener derecho a un período de inscripción especial de 30 días en otro plan de salud grupal para el cual sea elegible (como un plan del cónyuge), aunque ese plan generalmente no acepte afiliados de último momento.

### ¿Qué es la cobertura de continuación de COBRA?

La cobertura de continuación de COBRA es la continuación de la cobertura del Plan cuando esta debería terminar debido a un evento determinado de la vida. Este acontecimiento también se conoce como “evento específico”. Los eventos específicos se incluyen más abajo en este aviso. Después de un evento específico, la cobertura de continuación de COBRA debe ofrecerse a cada persona considerada un “beneficiario que cumple con los requisitos”. Usted, su cónyuge y sus hijos dependientes podrían convertirse en beneficiarios que cumplan con los requisitos si la cobertura del Plan se pierde debido al evento específico. Según el Plan, los beneficiarios que cumplan con los requisitos y que elijan la cobertura de continuación de COBRA must pay la cobertura de continuación de COBRA.

Si usted es un empleado, se convertirá en un beneficiario que cumple con los requisitos si pierde la cobertura del Plan debido a estos eventos específicos:

- sus horas de empleo se reducen; o
- su empleo termina por un motivo que no sea una falta grave de su parte.

Si usted es el cónyuge del empleado, se convertirá en un beneficiario que cumple con los requisitos si pierde la cobertura del Plan debido a estos eventos específicos:

- su cónyuge muere;
- las horas de empleo de su cónyuge se reducen;
- el empleo de su cónyuge termina por un motivo que no sea una falta grave por parte de su cónyuge;
- su cónyuge adquiere el derecho a recibir los beneficios de Medicare (Parte A, Parte B o ambas); o
- se divorcia o se separa legalmente de su cónyuge.

Sus hijos dependientes se convertirán en beneficiarios que cumplen con los requisitos si pierden la cobertura del Plan debido a estos eventos específicos:

- el empleado cubierto muere;
- las horas de empleo del empleado cubierto se reducen;
- el empleo del empleado cubierto termina por un motivo que no sea una falta grave por parte del empleado cubierto;
- el empleado cubierto adquiere el derecho a recibir los beneficios de Medicare (Parte A, Parte B o ambas);
- los padres se divorcian o se separan legalmente; o el hijo deja de ser elegible para la cobertura del Plan como “hijo dependiente”.

### ¿Cuándo está disponible la cobertura de continuación de COBRA?

El Plan ofrecerá la cobertura de continuación de COBRA a los beneficiarios que cumplan con los requisitos solamente después de que se le informe al administrador del Plan que ha ocurrido un evento específico. El empleador debe notificar los siguientes eventos habilitantes al administrador del Plan:

- la terminación del empleo o la reducción de las horas de empleo;
- la muerte del empleado;
- el hecho de que el empleado adquiriera el derecho a recibir los beneficios de Medicare (Parte A, Parte B o ambas).

**Para todos los otros eventos específicos (divorcio o separación legal del empleado y el cónyuge, o hijo dependiente que pierde la elegibilidad para la cobertura como hijo dependiente), debe avisarle al administrador del Plan en los 60 días posteriores a que se produzca el evento habilitante. Debe proporcionarle este aviso a:**

**Rose Thomason  
Directora de Recursos Humanos  
400 SW 25th Avenue Mineral  
Wells, Texas 76087 (940) 328-6501  
RThomason@ppgh.com**

### ¿Cómo se proporciona la cobertura de continuación de COBRA?

Después de que el administrador del Plan recibe el aviso de que se ha producido un evento específico, la cobertura de continuación de COBRA se ofrecerá a cada uno de los beneficiarios que cumplan con los requisitos. Cada beneficiario que cumpla con los requisitos tendrá su propio derecho a elegir la cobertura de continuación de COBRA. Los empleados cubiertos pueden elegir la cobertura de continuación de COBRA en nombre de su cónyuge y los padres pueden elegir la cobertura de continuación de COBRA en nombre de sus hijos.

La cobertura de continuación de COBRA es la continuación temporal de la cobertura debido a la terminación del empleo o a la reducción de las horas de trabajo, y en general dura 18 meses. Determinados eventos específicos, o un segundo evento específico durante el período inicial de cobertura, pueden permitir que el beneficiario reciba un máximo de 36 meses de cobertura.

También hay otros motivos por los cuales este período de 18 meses de la cobertura de continuación de COBRA puede prolongarse:

### Extensión por discapacidad del período de 18 meses de la cobertura de continuación de COBRA

Si el Seguro Social determina que usted o alguien de su familia que esté cubierto por el Plan tiene una discapacidad y usted le avisa al respecto al administrador del Plan en el plazo correspondiente, usted y toda su familia pueden recibir una extensión adicional de hasta 11 meses de cobertura de continuación de COBRA, por un máximo de 29 meses. La discapacidad debe haber comenzado en algún momento antes de los 60 días de la cobertura de continuación de COBRA y debe durar al menos hasta el final del período de 18 meses de la cobertura de continuación de COBRA.

### Extensión por un segundo evento específico del período de 18 meses de la cobertura de continuación de COBRA

Si su familia sufre otro evento específico durante los 18 meses de la cobertura de continuación de COBRA, su cónyuge y sus hijos dependientes pueden recibir hasta 18 meses adicionales de cobertura de continuación de COBRA, por un máximo de 36 meses, si se le avisa al Plan como corresponde acerca del segundo evento específico. Esta extensión puede estar disponible para el cónyuge y cualquier hijo dependiente que reciba la cobertura de continuación de COBRA en el caso de que el empleado o ex empleado muera, adquiera el derecho a recibir los beneficios de Medicare (Parte A, Parte B o ambas), se divorcie o se separe legalmente, o si el hijo dependiente deja de ser elegible en el Plan como hijo dependiente. Esta extensión solo está disponible en el caso de que el segundo evento específico hubiese hecho que el cónyuge o el hijo dependiente pierda la cobertura del Plan si no se hubiese producido el primer evento específico.

### ¿Hay otras opciones de cobertura además de la cobertura de continuación de COBRA?

Sí. En lugar de inscribirse en la cobertura de continuación de COBRA, puede haber otras opciones de cobertura para usted y su familia a través del mercado de seguros médicos, Medicaid u otras opciones de un plan de salud grupal (por ejemplo, el plan de su cónyuge) mediante lo que se denomina un “período de inscripción especial”. Es posible que algunas de estas opciones cuesten menos que la cobertura de continuación de COBRA. Puede encontrar más información sobre muchas de estas opciones en [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

### Si tiene preguntas

Las preguntas acerca de su Plan o de sus derechos a recibir la cobertura de continuación de COBRA deben enviarse al contacto o los contactos identificados abajo. Para obtener más información sobre sus derechos según la Ley de Seguridad de los Ingresos de Jubilación de los Empleados (ERISA, por sus siglas en inglés), incluida la ley COBRA, la Ley de Atención Médica (de bajo costo) y la Protección al Paciente, y otras leyes que afectan a los planes de salud grupales, comuníquese con la oficina regional o de distrito más cercana de la Administración de Seguridad de Beneficios para Empleados (EBSA, por sus siglas en inglés) del Departamento de Trabajo de Estados Unidos en su área, o visite [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa). (Las direcciones y los números de teléfono de las oficinas regionales y de distrito de EBSA están disponibles en el sitio web de EBSA). Para obtener más información acerca del mercado de seguros médicos, visite [www.HealthCare.gov](http://www.HealthCare.gov).

## Informe a su plan si cambia de dirección

Para proteger los derechos de su familia, informe al administrador del Plan sobre cualquier cambio en las direcciones de sus familiares. También debe conservar una copia, para su registro, de todos los avisos que le envíe al administrador del Plan.

## Información de contacto del Plan

Palo Pinto General Hospital Welfare Benefit Plan

Rose Thomason

400 SW 25th Avenue

Mineral Wells, Texas 76087

(940) 328-6501

RThomason@ppgh.com