



# County of Galveston 2024 Annual Notices



## Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	2
Medicare Part D Notice of Creditable Coverage.....	3
Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act.....	6
Newborns’ and Mothers’ Health Protection Act.....	6
HIPAA Notice of Special Enrollment Rights for Active Employees / Non-Retirees.....	6
Availability of Privacy Practices Notice.....	7
Notice Regarding Wellness Program.....	8
Premium Assistance Under Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).....	9
ACA Disclaimer.....	12
The ‘No Surprises’ Rules.....	13



# Medicare Part D Notice of Creditable Coverage

## Important Notice from Galveston County About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with Galveston County 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. Galveston County has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas Medical Plans is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage.

Because your existing coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.

## When Can You Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

You can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15th to December 7th.

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

## 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 Galveston County coverage will not be affected. See below for more information about what happens to your current coverage if you join a Medicare drug plan.

**Notice for Retirees: If you enroll in another Medicare Drug plan it will terminate your County of Galveston Medicare PPO Plan. Your Medicare PPO plan through the County of Galveston has both Medical benefits as well as Prescription Medicare Part D benefits in one plan.**

**If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your County of Galveston prescription drug coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will not be able to get this coverage back in the future.**

Since the existing prescription drug coverage under Galveston County Group Health Plan is creditable (e.g., as good as Medicare coverage), you can retain your existing prescription drug coverage and choose not to enroll in a Part D plan; or you can enroll in a Part D plan as a supplement to, or in lieu of, your existing prescription drug coverage.

## 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 Galveston County 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 your plan at the number listed below. You'll get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and/or if this coverage through Galveston County changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

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

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

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

- Visit [medicare.gov](https://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 800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227). TTY users should call 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 [socialsecurity.gov](https://www.socialsecurity.gov), or call them at 800-772-1213 (TTY 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:**

January 01, 2024

## Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act

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. If you would like more information on WHCRA benefits, call your plan administrator at 409-770-5350 or by emailing [HumanResources@co.galveston.tx.us](mailto:HumanResources@co.galveston.tx.us).

## Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act

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). If you would like more information on maternity benefits, call your plan administrator at 409-770-5350 or by emailing [HumanResources@co.galveston.tx.us](mailto:HumanResources@co.galveston.tx.us).

## HIPAA Notice of Special Enrollment Rights for Active Employees / Non-Retirees

If you decline enrollment in Galveston County's health plan for you or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance or group health plan coverage, you or your dependents may be able to enroll in Galveston County's health plan without waiting for the next open enrollment period if you:

- Lose other health insurance or group health plan coverage. You must request enrollment within 30 Days days after the loss of other coverage.
- Gain a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption. You must request health plan enrollment within 30 Days days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.
- Lose Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage because you are no longer eligible. You must request medical plan enrollment within 60 days after the loss of such coverage.

If you request a change due to a special enrollment event within the 30 Days day timeframe, coverage will be effective the date of birth, adoption or placement for adoption. For all other events, coverage will be effective the first of the month following your request for enrollment. In addition, you may enroll in Galveston County's health plan if you become eligible for a state premium assistance program under Medicaid or CHIP. You must request enrollment within 60 days after you gain eligibility for medical plan coverage. If you request this change, coverage will be effective the first of the month following your request for enrollment. Specific restrictions may apply, depending on federal and state law.

Note: If your dependent becomes eligible for a special enrollment right, you may add the dependent to your current coverage or change to another health plan.

## Availability of Privacy Practices Notice

Galveston County maintains the HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices for the Group Health Plan describing how health information about you may be used and disclosed. You may obtain a copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices by contacting the Plan Administrator at 409-770-5350 or emailing [HumanResources@co.galveston.tx.us](mailto:HumanResources@co.galveston.tx.us).

# Notice Regarding Wellness Program

Gym Membership Reimbursement is a voluntary wellness program available to all employees enrolled in the County's Medical plan. The program is administered according to federal rules permitting employer-sponsored wellness programs that seek to improve employee health or prevent disease, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, as applicable, among others.

If you choose to participate in the wellness program you may be asked to complete a health risk assessment or "HRA" that asks a series of questions about your health-related activities and behaviors and whether you have or had certain medical conditions (e.g., cancer, diabetes, or heart disease). You may also be asked to complete a biometric screening, which would include a blood test for glucose, HDL, LDL, triglycerides, nicotine and total cholesterol.

The information from your HRA and/or the results from your biometric screening will be used to provide you with information to help you understand your current health and potential risks, and may also be used to offer you services through the wellness program, such as health coaching. You also are encouraged to share your results or concerns with your own doctor.

## Protections from Disclosure of Medical Information

We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your personally identifiable health information. Although the wellness program and Galveston County may use aggregate information it collects to design a program based on identified health risks in the workplace, Galveston County will never disclose any of your personal information either publicly or to the employer, except as necessary to respond to a request from you for a reasonable accommodation needed to participate in the wellness program, or as expressly permitted by law. Medical information that personally identifies you that is provided in connection with the wellness program will not be provided to your supervisors or managers and may never be used to make decisions regarding your employment.

Your health information will not be sold, exchanged, transferred, or otherwise disclosed except to the extent permitted by law to carry out specific activities related to the wellness program, and you will not be asked or required to waive the confidentiality of your health information as a condition of participating in the wellness program or receiving an incentive. Anyone who receives your information for purposes of providing you services as part of the wellness program will abide by the same confidentiality requirements. The only individual that may receive your personally identifiable health information is a health coach in order to provide you with services under the wellness program.

In addition, all medical information obtained through the wellness program will be maintained separate from your personnel records, information stored electronically will be encrypted, and no information you provide as part of the wellness program will be used in making any employment decision. Appropriate precautions will be taken to avoid any data breach, and in the event a data breach occurs involving information you provide in connection with the wellness program, we will notify you immediately.

You may not be discriminated against in employment because of the medical information you provide as part of participating in the wellness program, nor may you be subjected to retaliation if you choose not to participate.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this notice, or about protections against discrimination and retaliation, please contact the plan administrator at 409-770-5350 or by emailing

[HumanResources@co.galveston.tx.us](mailto:HumanResources@co.galveston.tx.us).



# 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)**.

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, 2023. Contact your State for more information on eligibility—

<b>ALABAMA – Medicaid</b> Website: <a href="http://myalhipp.com/">http://myalhipp.com/</a>   Phone: 1-855-692-5447
<b>ALASKA – Medicaid</b> The AK Health Insurance Premium Payment Program   Website: <a href="http://myakhipp.com/">http://myakhipp.com/</a> Phone: 1-866-251-4861 Email: <a href="mailto:CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com">CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com</a> Medicaid Eligibility: <a href="https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/default.aspx">https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/default.aspx</a>
<b>ARKANSAS – Medicaid</b> Website: <a href="http://myarhipp.com/">http://myarhipp.com/</a>   Phone: 1-855-MyARHIPP (855-692-7447)
<b>CALIFORNIA – Medicaid</b> Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program website: <a href="http://dhcs.ca.gov/hipp">http://dhcs.ca.gov/hipp</a> Phone: 916-445-8322   Fax: 916-440-5676   Email: <a href="mailto:hipp@dhcs.ca.gov">hipp@dhcs.ca.gov</a>
<b>COLORADO – Health First Colorado (Colorado’s Medicaid Program) &amp; Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+)</b> Health First Colorado Website: <a href="https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/">https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/</a> Health First Colorado Member Contact Center: 1-800-221-3943   State Relay 711 CHP+: <a href="https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/child-health-plan-plus">https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/child-health-plan-plus</a> CHP+ Customer Service: 1-800-359-1991   State Relay 711 Health Insurance Buy-In Program (HIBI): <a href="https://www.mycohibi.com/">https://www.mycohibi.com/</a> HIBI Customer Service: 1-855-692-6442
<b>FLORIDA – Medicaid</b> Website: <a href="https://www.flmedicaidprecovery.com/flmedicaidprecovery.com/hipp/index.html">https://www.flmedicaidprecovery.com/flmedicaidprecovery.com/hipp/index.html</a> Phone: 1-877-357-3268

**GEORGIA – 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

**INDIANA – Medicaid**

Healthy Indiana Plan for low-income adults 19-64 Website: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/hip/> | Phone: 1-877-438-4479

All other Medicaid Website: <https://www.in.gov/medicaid/> | Phone 1-800-457-4584

**IOWA – Medicaid and CHIP (Hawki)**

Medicaid Website: <https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members> | Medicaid Phone: 1-800-338-8366

Hawki Website: <http://dhs.iowa.gov/Hawki> | Hawki Phone: 1-800-257-8563

HIPP Website: <https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/medicaid-a-to-z/hipp> | HIPP Phone: 1-888-346-9562

**KANSAS – Medicaid**

Website: <https://www.kancare.ks.gov/> | Phone: 1-800-792-4884 | HIPP Phone: 1-800-967-4660

**KENTUCKY – Medicaid**

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: [KIHIPPPROGRAM@ky.gov](mailto:KIHIPPPROGRAM@ky.gov)

KCHIP Website: <https://kidshealth.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx> | Phone: 1-877-524-4718

Kentucky Medicaid Website: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms>

**LOUISIANA – Medicaid**

Website: [www.medicicaid.la.gov](http://www.medicicaid.la.gov) or [www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp](http://www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp)

Phone: 1-888-342-6207 (Medicaid hotline) or 1-855-618-5488 (LaHIPP)

**MAINE – Medicaid**

Enrollment Website: [https://www.mymaineconnection.gov/benefits/s/?language=en\\_US](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: 800-977-6740 | TTY: Maine relay 711

**MASSACHUSETTS – Medicaid and CHIP**

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/masshealth/pa> | Phone: 1-800-862-4840 | TTY: 711

Email: [masspremassistance@accenture.com](mailto:masspremassistance@accenture.com)

**MINNESOTA – Medicaid**

Website: <https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/children-and-families/health-care/health-care-programs/programs-and-services/other-insurance.jsp>

Phone: 1-800-657-3739

**MISSOURI – Medicaid**

Website: <http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm> | Phone: 573-751-2005

**MONTANA – Medicaid**

Website: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP>

Phone: 1-800-694-3084 | email: [HSHSHIPPProgram@mt.gov](mailto:HSHSHIPPProgram@mt.gov)

**NEBRASKA – Medicaid**

Website: <http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov>

Phone: 1-855-632-7633 | Lincoln: 402-473-7000 | Omaha: 402-595-1178

**NEVADA – Medicaid**

Medicaid Website: <http://dhcfp.nv.gov>

Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900

<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program">https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program</a> Phone: 603-271-5218   Toll-free number for the HIPP program: 1-800-852-3345, ext. 5218
<b>NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Medicaid Website: <a href="http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/">http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/</a>   Phone: 609-631-2392 CHIP Website: <a href="http://www.nifamilycare.org/index.html">http://www.nifamilycare.org/index.html</a>   Phone: 1-800-701-0710
<b>NEW YORK – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/">https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/</a>   Phone: 1-800-541-2831
<b>NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/">https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/</a>   Phone: 919-855-4100
<b>NORTH DAKOTA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare">https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare</a>   Phone: 1-844-854-4825
<b>OKLAHOMA – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.insureoklahoma.org">http://www.insureoklahoma.org</a>   Phone: 1-888-365-3742
<b>OREGON – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx">http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx</a> Phone: 1-800-699-9075
<b>PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Website: <a href="https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/HIPP-Program.aspx">https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/HIPP-Program.aspx</a>   Phone: 1-800-692-7462 CHIP Website: <a href="#">Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (pa.gov)</a>   CHIP Phone: 1-800-986-KIDS (5437)
<b>RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/">http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/</a>   Phone: 1-855-697-4347 or 401-462-0311 (Direct Rlte Share Line)
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="https://www.scdhhs.gov">https://www.scdhhs.gov</a>   Phone: 1-888-549-0820
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://dss.sd.gov">http://dss.sd.gov</a>   Phone: 1-888-828-0059
<b>TEXAS – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="#">Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program   Texas Health and Human Services</a> Phone: 1-800-440-0493
<b>UTAH – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Medicaid Website: <a href="https://medicaid.utah.gov/">https://medicaid.utah.gov/</a>   CHIP Website: <a href="http://health.utah.gov/chip">http://health.utah.gov/chip</a> Phone: 1-877-543-7669
<b>VERMONT – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="#">Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program   Department of Vermont Health Access</a> Phone: 1-800-250-8427
<b>VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Website: <a href="https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/famis-select">https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/famis-select</a> or <a href="https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-programs">https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-programs</a> Medicaid/CHIP Phone: 1-800-432-5924
<b>WASHINGTON – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="https://www.hca.wa.gov/">https://www.hca.wa.gov/</a>   Phone: 1-800-562-3022
<b>WEST VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Website: <a href="https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/">https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/</a> or <a href="http://mywvhpp.com/">http://mywvhpp.com/</a> Medicaid Phone: 304-558-1700   CHIP Toll-free phone: 1-855-MyWVHIPP (1-855-699-8447)

**WISCONSIN – Medicaid and CHIP**

Website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm> | Phone: 1-800-362-3002

**WYOMING – Medicaid**

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, 2023, 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

## ACA Disclaimer

This offer of coverage may disqualify you from receiving government subsidies for an Exchange plan even if you choose not to enroll. To be subsidy eligible you would have to establish that this offer is unaffordable for you, meaning that the required contribution for employee only coverage under our base plan exceeds 8.39% in 2024 your modified adjusted household income.

## The ‘No Surprises’ Rules

The “No Surprises” rules protect you from surprise medical bills in situations where you can’t easily choose a provider who’s in your health plan network. This is especially common in an emergency situation, when you may get care from out-of-network providers. Out-of-network providers or emergency facilities may ask you to sign a notice and consent form before providing certain services after you’re no longer in need of emergency care. These are called “post-stabilization services.” You shouldn’t get this notice and consent form if you’re getting emergency services other than post-stabilization services. You may also be asked to sign a notice and consent form if you schedule certain non-emergency services with an out-of-network provider at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center.

The notice and consent form informs you about your protections from unexpected medical bills, gives you the option to give up those protections and pay more for out-of-network care, and provides an estimate of what your out-of-network care might cost. You aren’t required to sign the form and shouldn’t sign the form if you didn’t have a choice of health care provider or facility before scheduling care. If you don’t sign, you may have to reschedule your care with a provider or facility in your health plan’s network.

[View a sample notice and consent form](#) (PDF).

This applies to you if you’re a participant, beneficiary, enrollee, or covered individual in a group health plan or group or individual health insurance coverage, including a Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) plan.

