

# 2024 Employee Benefits Plan

## Annual Health Benefit Notices Medicare Part D Notice

Prepared for:

**Ventura County Community College District**



Creditable

### **Medicare**

#### **Part D Notice**

If you (and/or your dependents) have Medicare or will become eligible for Medicare in the next 12 months, a Federal law gives you more choices about your prescription drug coverage. Please see page 3 for more details.

To obtain more information regarding any of the information listed in this packet, or if you have any questions, please contact:

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Plan Effective Date: 10/01/24

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If you (and/or your dependents) have Medicare or will become eligible for Medicare in the next 12 months, a Federal law gives you more choices about your prescription drug coverage. To help you decide whether or not to enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan, this Notice will inform you whether or not the value of the prescription drug benefit under your group health plan equals or exceeds the value of standard prescription drug coverage available under Medicare Part D.

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This act contains important protections for breast cancer patients who choose breast reconstruction with a mastectomy. The U.S. Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services are in charge of this act of law which applies to group health plans if the plans or coverage provide medical and surgical benefits for a mastectomy.

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# Medicare Part D Notice of Creditable Coverage

## Important Notice from Ventura County Community College District 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 Ventura County Community College District under the SISC medical plan options -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. Ventura County Community College District has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered under the above plan option (s), 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> through 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 Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your current coverage with Ventura County Community College District will not be affected. If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current medical plan coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will be able to get this coverage back (for example, at the next annual open enrollment period or upon incurrence of a special enrollment event).

### 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 Ventura County Community College District 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 Your Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Options

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is in the "Medicare & You" handbook. You'll receive 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; or
- Call (800) MEDICARE or (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 more information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), or you may 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).

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

Contact the person listed on **page 2** for further information. 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 Ventura County Community College District changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

## Women's Health & Cancer Rights Act (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 individuals receiving mastectomy-related benefits, coverage will be provided in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient, for:

- All states 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 the medical plan.

To obtain more information on WHCR benefits, please call or email the person listed on **page 2**.

## Newborn 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).

To obtain more information, please call or email the person listed on **page 2**.

## Special Enrollment Rights

If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your dependent (s) (including your spouse) because of other health insurance or group health plan coverage, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents if you or your dependent(s) 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 if the employer stops contributing toward your or your dependents' other coverage).

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 yourself and your dependents. However, you must request enrollment within 30 days after the birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

To obtain more information, please call or email the person listed on **page 2**.

# Medicaid & Children’s Health Insurance Program

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 are a California resident, please contact the California Department of Health Care Services to see if you may be eligible for premium assistance:**

**Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program**

<http://dhcs.ca.gov/hipp>

**Phone: 916-445-8322**

**Fax: 916-440-5676**

**Email: [hipp@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:hipp@dhcs.ca.gov)**

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

## U.S. Department of Labor—Employee Benefits Security Administration

Website..... [www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa)

Phone ..... 1-866-444-EBSA (3272)

## U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Website..... [www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov)

Phone ..... 1-877-267-2323, Menu Option 4, Ext. 61565

# HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

## Your Information | Your Rights | Our Responsibilities

### Health Care Flexible Spending Account Benefits

This Notice describes how medical information about you that we receive from your health care flexible spending account may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review it carefully.

Contact the person listed on **page 2** for further information.

#### Your Rights

##### You have the right to:

- Get a copy of your health and claims records
- Correct your health and claims records
- Request confidential communication
- Ask us to limit the information we share
- Get a list of those with whom we've shared your information
- Get a copy of this privacy notice
- Choose someone to act for you
- File a complaint if you believe your privacy rights have been violated

*See page 7 for more information on these rights and how to exercise them*

#### Your Choices

##### You have some choices in the way that we use and share information as we:

- Tell your family and friends about your condition
- Provide disaster relief
- Include you in a hospital directory
- Market our services and sell your information

*See page 8 for more information on these choices and how to exercise them*

#### Our Uses and Disclosures

##### We may use and share your information as we:

- Help manage the health care treatment you receive
- Run our organization
- Bill for your health services
- Administer your health plan
- Help with public health and safety issues
- Do research
- Comply with the law
- Respond to organ and tissue donation requests and work with a medical examiner or funeral director
- Address workers' compensation, law enforcement, and other government requests
- Respond to lawsuits and legal actions

*See pages 8 and 9 for more information on these uses and disclosures*

# HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

## Your Rights

### When it comes to your health information, you have certain rights.

This section explains your rights and some of our responsibilities to help you.

Get a copy of your health and claims records

- You can ask to see or get a copy of your health and claims records and other health information we have about you. Ask us how to do this.
- We will provide a copy or a summary of your health and claims records, usually within 30 days of your request. We may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee.

Ask us to correct health and claims records

- You can ask us to correct your health and claims records if you think they are incorrect or incomplete. Ask us how to do this.
- We may say “no” to your request, but we’ll tell you why in writing within 60 days.

Request confidential communications

- You can ask us to contact you in a specific way (for example, home or office phone) or to send mail to a different address.
- We will consider all reasonable requests, and must say “yes” if you tell us you would be in danger if we do not.

Ask us to limit what we use or share

- You can ask us not to use or share certain health information for treatment, payment, or our operations.
- We are not required to agree to your request, and we may say “no” if it would affect your care.

Get a list of those with whom we’ve shared information

- You can ask for a list (accounting) of the times we’ve shared your health information for six years prior to the date you ask, who we shared it with, and why.
- We will include all the disclosures except for those about treatment, payment, and health care operations, and certain other disclosures (such as any you asked us to make). We’ll provide one accounting a year for free but will charge a reasonable, cost-based fee if you ask for another one within 12 months.

Get a copy of this privacy notice

- You can ask for a paper copy of this notice at any time, even if you have agreed to receive the notice electronically. We will provide you with a paper copy promptly.

Choose someone to act for you

- If you have given someone medical power of attorney or if someone is your legal guardian, that person can exercise your rights and make choices about your health information.
- We will make sure the person has this authority and can act for you before we take any action.

File a complaint if you feel your rights are violated

- You can complain if you feel we have violated your rights by contacting us using the information on **Page 2** of this Booklet.
- You can file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights by sending a letter to 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, calling (877) 696-6775, or visiting [www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/).
- We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

# HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

## Your Choices

In these cases, you have both the right and choice to tell us to:

### For certain health information, you can tell us your choices about what we share.

If you have a clear preference for how we share your information in the situations described below, talk to us. Tell us what you want us to do, and we will follow your instructions.

- Share information with your family, close friends, or others involved in payment for your care.
- Share information in a disaster relief situation.

*If you are not able to tell us your preference, for example if you are unconscious, we may go ahead and share your information if we believe it is in your best interest. We may also share your information when needed to lessen a serious and imminent threat to health or safety.*

In these cases we never share your information unless you give us written permission:

- Marketing purposes
- Sale of your information

## Our Uses and Disclosures

### How do we typically use or share your health information?

We typically use or share your health information in the following ways.

Help manage the health care treatment you receive

- We can use your health information and share it with professionals who are treating you.

**Example:** A doctor sends us information about your diagnosis and treatment plan so we can arrange additional services.

Run our organization

- We can use and disclose your information to run our organization and contact you when necessary.
- We are not allowed to use genetic information to decide whether we will give you coverage and the price of that coverage. This does not apply to long term care plans.

**Example:** We use health information about you to develop better services for you.

Pay for your health services

- We can use and disclose your health information as we pay for your health services.

**Example:** We share information about you with your dental plan to coordinate payment for your dental work.

Administer your plan

- We may disclose your health information to your health plan sponsor for plan administration.

**Example:** Your company contracts with us to provide a health plan, and we provide your company with certain statistics to explain the premiums we charge.



# HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

## Our Uses and Disclosures (continued)

### How else can we use or share your health information?

We are allowed or required to share your information in other ways – usually in ways that contribute to the public good, such as public health and research. We have to meet many conditions in the law before we can share your information for these purposes. For more information see: [www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html).

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Help with public health and safety issues  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We can share health information about you for certain situations such as: preventing disease, helping with product recalls, reporting adverse reactions to medications, reporting suspected abuse, neglect, or domestic violence, preventing or reducing a serious threat to anyone’s health or safety.</li></ul>  |
| Do research  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We can use or share your information for health research.</li></ul>  |
| Comply with the law  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will share information about you if state or federal laws require it, including with the Department of Health and Human Services if it wants to see that we’re complying with federal privacy law.</li></ul>  |
| Respond to organ and tissue donation requests and work with a medical examiner or funeral director | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We can share health information about you with organ procurement organizations.</li><li>• We can share health information with a coroner, medical examiner, or funeral director when an individual dies.</li></ul>   |
| Address workers’ compensation, law enforcement, and other government requests                      | <p>We can use or share health information about you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For workers’ compensation claims.</li><li>• For law enforcement purposes or with a law enforcement official.</li><li>• With health oversight agencies for activities authorized by law.</li><li>• For special government functions such as military, national security, and presidential protective services.</li></ul> |
| Respond to lawsuits and legal actions  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We can share health information about you in response to a court or administrative order, or in response to a subpoena.</li></ul>  |

## Our Responsibilities

- We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your protected health information.
- We will let you know promptly if a breach occurs that may have compromised the privacy or security of your information.
- We must follow the duties and privacy practices described in this notice and give you a copy of it.
- We will not use or share your information other than as described here unless you tell us we can in writing. If you tell us we can, you may change your mind at any time. Let us know in writing if you change your mind.

For more information, visit: [www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/noticepp.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/noticepp.html).

## Changes to the Terms of this Notice

We can change the terms of this notice, and the changes will apply to all information we have about you. The new notice will be available upon request, on our web site, and we will mail a copy to you.

## Effective Date of Notice

This Notice is current as of 10/01/2024.