

# PHYSICIANS NETWORK MEDICAL GROUP HEALTH AND WELFARE PLAN 2022 ANNUAL LEGAL NOTICES

As required by law, Physicians Network Medical Group, Inc. (“PNMG”) is sending you the following notices regarding the Physicians Network Medical Group Health and Welfare Plan, which includes the Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan—PPO and the Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan—HDHP. In the notices below, the PPO and HDHP may be collectively referred to as both the “Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan” and the “Plan.” However, in addition to the Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan, the Privacy, Discrimination, and USERRA notices below pertain to the Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Dental Plan and the Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Vision Plan, which are also part of the Physicians Network Medical Group Health and Welfare Plan. The notices discuss a number of rights and responsibilities you have regarding your coverage under the Plan. Please read each notice carefully. If you have any questions regarding these notices, please contact the Plan’s administrative services provider, Adventist Health Benefits Administration (“Benefits Administration”) at (800) 441-2524.

**IMPORTANT ENROLLMENT DEADLINE: Except as subject to a special temporary deadline extension due to the COVID-19 pandemic, if you gain a new dependent, you must enroll that dependent within 30 days (or 60 days if you gain the new dependent due to birth, adoption or placement for adoption). These enrollment deadlines include newborn babies and apply even if you have family coverage. See page 6 for more details.**

**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 2 for more details about the HDHP option, and see page 4 for more details about the PPO option.**

## Discrimination is Against the Law

The Plan complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. The Plan does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

The Plan:

- Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:
  - Qualified sign language interpreters
  - Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
- Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:
  - Qualified interpreters
  - Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact Wendi Fox.

If you believe that the Plan has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with: Wendi Fox, System Director, Benefits Administration, ONE Adventist Health Way, Roseville, CA 95661, (916) 406-0599, Fax (916) 781-2441, foxwg@ah.org. You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, Wendi Fox is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 509F, HHH Building  
Washington, D.C. 20201  
1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>.

**Important Notice from Physicians Network Medical Group, Inc.  
About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare**

**HIGH DEDUCTIBLE HEALTH PLAN (HDHP) OPTION**

**You are responsible for providing a copy of this notice to your Medicare-eligible dependents.**

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with Physicians Network Medical Group, Inc. 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. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.

There are three 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. Physicians Network Medical Group, Inc. has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan-HDHP is, on average for all plan participants, NOT expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays. Therefore, your coverage is considered **Non-Creditable Coverage. This is important because, most likely, you will get more help with your drug costs if you join a Medicare drug plan, than if you only have prescription drug coverage from the Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan-HDHP. This also is important because it may mean that you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you do not join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible.**
3. You can keep your current coverage from Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan-HDHP. However, because your coverage is non-creditable, you have decisions to make about Medicare prescription drug coverage that may affect how much you pay for that coverage, depending on if and when you join a drug plan. When you make your decision, you should compare your current coverage, including what drugs are covered, with the coverage and cost of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. Read this notice carefully - it explains your options.

---

**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 decide to drop your current coverage with Physicians Network Medical Group, Inc., since it is employer sponsored group coverage, you will be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan; however, you also may pay a higher premium (a penalty) because you did not have creditable coverage under the Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan-HDHP.

**When Will You Pay A Higher Premium (Penalty) To Join A Medicare Drug Plan?**

Since the coverage under the Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan-HDHP is not creditable, depending on how long you go without creditable prescription drug coverage you may pay a penalty to join a Medicare drug plan. Starting with the end of the last month that you were first eligible to join a Medicare drug plan but didn't join, if you go 63 continuous days or longer without prescription drug coverage that's creditable, 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 (penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

**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 Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan-HDHP coverage will not be affected. If you elect Medicare Part D coverage and maintain your Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan-HDHP coverage, your Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan-HDHP coverage will coordinate with Part D coverage.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan-HDHP coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will be able to get this coverage back. You can re-enroll in the next open enrollment period.

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

Contact Benefits Administration 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 Physicians Network Medical Group, Inc. 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).

Date:	October 1, 2021
Name of Entity/Sender:	Physicians Network Medical Group, Inc.
Contact--Position/Office:	Adventist Health Benefits Administration
Address:	ONE Adventist Health Way Roseville, CA 95661
Phone Number:	800-441-2524

**Important Notice from Physicians Network Medical Group, Inc.**  
**About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare**

**PREFERRED PROVIDER ORGANIZATION (PPO) OPTION**

**You are responsible for providing a copy of this notice to your Medicare-eligible dependents.**

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with Physicians Network Medical Group, Inc. 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. Physicians Network Medical Group, Inc. has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan-PPO 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 current Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan-PPO coverage will not be affected. If you elect Medicare Part D coverage and maintain your Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan-PPO coverage, your Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan-PPO coverage will coordinate with Part D coverage.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan-PPO coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will be able to get this coverage back. You can re-enroll in the next open enrollment period.

**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 Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan-PPO 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 Benefits Administration 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 Physicians Network Medical Group, Inc. 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:	October 1, 2021
Name of Entity/Sender:	Physicians Network Medical Group, Inc.
Contact--Position/Office:	Adventist Health Benefits Administration
Address:	ONE Adventist Health Way Roseville, CA 95661
Phone Number:	800-441-2524

## **Special Enrollment Rights**

**\*Note that the deadlines in this section are temporarily extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For details, see your Plan's summary plan description or contact Benefits Administration at (800) 441-2524.**

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 stopped contributing towards 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 gain a new dependent as a result of marriage, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents. However, you must request enrollment within 30 days after the marriage.

If you gain a new dependent as a result of birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after the birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

To enroll or elect additional coverage because of a special enrollment event, you must submit your changes to Benefits Administration within 30 days after the date you lost other coverage, within 30 days of gaining a new dependent as a result of marriage, or within 60 days after gaining a new dependent as a result of birth, adoption, or placement for adoption. Even if you are enrolled in family coverage, you must contact Benefits Administration to make the election changes for any new dependents within these deadlines.

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact Benefits Administration at (800) 441-2524.

## **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).

## **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 your plan.

If you would like more information on WHCRA benefits, contact Benefits Administration at (800) 441-2524.

## **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 are 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 are not 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, you can 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 (except as extended by the special temporary deadline extension due to the COVID-19 pandemic described in your summary plan description)**. 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 California, you may be eligible for assistance paying your employer health plan premiums. The following state information is current as of July 31, 2021. You should contact your state for further information on eligibility –**

<b>CALIFORNIA – Medicaid</b>
Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program <a href="https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/hipp">https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/hipp</a> Phone: 916-445-8322 Email: <a href="mailto:hipp@dhcs.ca.gov">hipp@dhcs.ca.gov</a>

Please note that only California is listed since PNMG is located in California. To see if any other states have a premium assistance program or if any other states have added a premium assistance program since July 31, 2021, or for more information on special enrollment rights, you can contact either:

U.S. Department of Labor  
Employee Benefits Security Administration  
[www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/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

## **Your Rights Under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994**

### A. The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act

USERRA protects the job rights of individuals who voluntarily or involuntarily leave employment positions to undertake military service or certain types of service in the National Disaster Medical System. USERRA also prohibits employers from discriminating against past and present members of the uniformed services, and applicants to the uniformed services.

### B. Reemployment Rights

You have the right to be reemployed in your civilian job if you leave that job to perform service in the uniformed service and:

- You ensure that your employer receives advance written or verbal notice of your service;
- You have five years or less of cumulative service in the uniformed services while with that particular employer;
- You return to work or apply for reemployment in a timely manner after conclusion of service; and
- You have not been separated from service with a disqualifying discharge or under other than honorable conditions.

If you are eligible to be reemployed, you must be restored to the job and benefits you would have attained if you had not been absent due to military service or, in some cases, a comparable job.

### C. Right to be Free From Discrimination and Retaliation

If you:

- are a past or present member of the uniformed service;
- have applied for membership in the uniformed service; or
- are obligated to serve in the uniformed service,

then an employer may not deny you:

- initial employment;
- reemployment;
- retention in employment;
- promotion; or
- any benefit of employment

because of this status.

In addition, an employer may not retaliate against anyone assisting in the enforcement of USERRA rights, including testifying or making a statement in connection with a proceeding under USERRA, even if that person has no service connection.

### D. Health Insurance Protection

- If you leave your job to perform military service, you have the right to elect to continue your existing employer-based health plan coverage for you and your dependents for up to 24 months while in the military.
- Even if you don't elect to continue coverage during your military service, you have the right to be reinstated in your employer's health plan when you are reemployed, generally without any waiting periods or exclusions (e.g., preexisting condition exclusions) except for service-connected illnesses or injuries.

### E. Enforcement

- The U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) is authorized to investigate and resolve complaints of USERRA violations.
- For assistance in filing a complaint, or for any other information on USERRA, contact VETS at 1-866-4-USA-DOL or visit its Web site at <http://www.dol.gov/vets>. An interactive online USERRA Advisor can be viewed at <http://webapps.dol.gov/elaws/userra.htm>

- If you file a complaint with VETS and VETS is unable to resolve it, you may request that your case be referred to the Department of Justice for representation.

You may also bypass the VETS process and bring a civil action against an employer for violations of USERRA.

The rights listed here may vary depending on the circumstances. The text of this notice was prepared by VETS, and may be viewed on the Internet at this address: [https://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra/USERRA\\_Federal.pdf](https://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra/USERRA_Federal.pdf)

## Physicians Network Medical Group Health and Welfare Plan Notice of Privacy Practices

This notice applies to the Physicians Network Medical Group Health and Welfare Plan, which includes the Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan—PPO, the Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan—HDHP, the Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Dental Plan, and the Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Vision Plan. For further information regarding this notice, contact the Plan’s Privacy Official at One Adventist Health Way, Roseville, CA 95661 or by phone at (916) 406-0000.

### **Your Information. Your Rights. Our Responsibilities.**

---

**This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review it carefully.**

#### **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 the following pages of this notice 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:

- Answer coverage questions from your family and friends
- Provide disaster relief
- Market our services and sell your information

*See the following pages of this notice 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
- Pay 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 the following pages of this notice for more information on these uses and disclosures.*

#### **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 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 at the beginning of this notice.
- 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 1-877-696-6775, 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.

## Your Choices

**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.

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

- 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. We may disclose your health information to the medical plan administration staff that are listed in the privacy policy.

*Example: We may provide information to your employer to explain the employee-share contributions.*

### 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**

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

## **Do research**

We can use or share your information for health research.

## **Comply with the law**

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. State and federal law may impose more restrictive requirements on certain uses and disclosures of protected health information than those listed in this notice. The Plan will comply with all such applicable requirements. There are special laws regarding information about HIV/AIDS status, STD status, mental health, developmental disabilities, reportable conditions, genetic information, and drug and alcohol abuse. The Plan follows these laws.

## **Respond to organ and tissue donation requests and work with a medical examiner or funeral director**

- We can share health information about you with organ procurement organizations.
- We can share health information with a coroner, medical examiner, or funeral director when an individual dies.

## **Address workers' compensation, law enforcement, and other government requests**

We can use or share health information about you:

- For workers' compensation claims
- For law enforcement purposes or with a law enforcement official
- With health oversight agencies for activities authorized by law
- For special government functions such as military, national security, and presidential protective services

## **Respond to lawsuits and legal actions**

We can share health information about you in response to a court or administrative order, or in response to a subpoena.

## **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 see: [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**

This notice is effective October 1, 2021.

## **Notice of Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options**

### **General Information**

There is now 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 2022 health insurance coverage through the federal Marketplace begins on November 1, 2021 and ends on January 15, 2021. (Dates may be extended nationwide by federal rule and/or in some state exchanges.)

### **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 9.61% 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. (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. *The Physicians Network Medical Group Employee Medical Plan meets the minimum value standard.*)

**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-share 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 Physicians Network Medical Group, Inc., please check your summary plan description or contact Benefits Administration at (800) 441-2524.

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

## **Translation Services Are Available**

Spanish (Español): Para obtener asistencia en Español, llame al (800) 441-2524.

For assistance in other languages, contact Benefits Administration at (800) 441-2524.