

# ANNUAL NOTICES

You have certain rights and responsibilities as an employee with access to benefits. This information is somewhat general and may not include all notices and content you may be entitled to receive. Your employer, plan sponsor, or carrier may provide additional information.

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## Health Insurance Marketplace Options and Your Health Coverage

The Health Insurance Marketplace is designed to help individuals find, compare, and purchase private individual health insurance. The Marketplace does not affect your eligibility for coverage or your employer's group health plan.

Individuals may be eligible for a tax credit that lowers the monthly premium of coverage purchased in the Marketplace. However, if you are eligible for an employer's group health plan, you may not be eligible for a tax credit through the Marketplace if the employer group health plan meets the "minimum value" and "affordability" standards set by the Affordable Care Act. Additionally, if you purchase your own health plan through the Marketplace instead of accepting health coverage offered by your employer, then you will lose the employer contribution towards coverage. This employer contribution — as well as your employee contribution towards coverage — is often excluded from income for Federal and State income tax purposes. Your payments for coverage you purchase through the Marketplace are made on an after-tax basis.

Open enrollment for Individual health insurance coverage through the Marketplace occurs at the end of each calendar year for coverage effective the following January 1st. If you are interested, 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.

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## Notice of Special Enrollment Rights

If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance or group health plan coverage, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage (or if the employer stops contributing toward your or your dependents' other coverage). However, you must request enrollment within 30 days or after your or your dependents' other coverage ends (or after the employer stops contributing toward the 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 marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact Human Resources.

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## Women's Health & Cancer Rights Act (WHCRA)

The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act requires group health plans that provide coverage for mastectomies to also cover reconstructive surgery and prostheses following mastectomies.

The law mandates that a member receiving benefits for a medically necessary mastectomy who elects breast reconstruction after the mastectomy will receive coverage for:

- reconstruction of the breast on which mastectomy has been performed;
- surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance;
- prostheses; and
- treatment of physical complications of all stages of mastectomy, including lymphedemas.

This coverage will be provided in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient, and it will be subject to the same annual deductibles and coinsurance provisions as those established for other benefits under the plan. Please call your medical plan using the number on your identification card or contact the employer for more information.

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## Availability of Notice of Privacy Practices

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (“HIPAA”) requires health plans to protect the confidentiality of your personal health information (“PHI”). HIPAA also requires that health plans maintain privacy notices which provide a complete description of your rights under HIPAA’s privacy rules. For insured coverage, the health insurance plan privacy notices are maintained by the insurance providers. For self-insured coverage, the privacy notice is maintained by your employer. In general, the plans will not use or further disclose PHI except as necessary for treatment, payment, health plan operations and plan administration or as permitted or required by law. Under HIPAA, you have certain rights with respect to your protected health information and the right to file a complaint with the plan or the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services if you believe your rights under HIPAA have been violated.

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## 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 on the DOL website ([dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/EBSA/laws-and-regulations/laws/chipra/model-notice.pdf](http://dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/EBSA/laws-and-regulations/laws/chipra/model-notice.pdf)) 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 <https://www.insurekidsnow.gov/> to find out how to apply. If you qualify, ask your state if it has a program that might help you pay the premiums for an employer-sponsored plan.

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

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## Your Rights & Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills

When you get emergency care or are treated by an out-of-network provider at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, you are protected from balance billing. In these cases, you shouldn't be charged more than your plan's copayments, coinsurance and/or deductible.

### What is "balance billing" (sometimes called "surprise billing")?

When you see a doctor or other health care provider, you may owe certain out-of-pocket costs, like a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible. You may have additional costs or have to pay the entire bill if you see a provider or visit a health care facility that isn't in your health plan's network.

**"Out-of-network"** means providers and facilities that haven't signed a contract with your health plan to provide services. Out-of-network providers may be allowed to bill you for the difference between what your plan pays and the full amount charged for a service. This is called "balance billing." This amount is likely more than in-network costs for the same service and might not count toward your plan's deductible or annual out-of-pocket limit.

**"Surprise billing"** is an unexpected balance bill. This can happen when you can't control who is involved in your care—like when you have an emergency or when you schedule a visit at an in-network facility but are unexpectedly treated by an out-of-network provider. Surprise medical bills could cost thousands of dollars depending on the procedure or service.

### You're protected from balance billing for:

#### Emergency services

If you have an emergency medical condition and get emergency services from an out-of-network provider or facility, the most they can bill you is your plan's in-network cost-sharing amount (such as copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles). You can't be balance billed for these emergency services. This includes services you may get after you're in stable condition, unless you give written consent and give up your protections not to be balance billed for these post-stabilization services.

#### Certain services at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center

When you get services from an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, certain providers there may be out-of-network. In these cases, the most those providers can bill you is your plan's in-network cost-sharing amount. This applies to emergency medicine, anesthesia, pathology, radiology, laboratory, neonatology, assistant surgeon, hospitalist, or intensivist services. These providers can't balance bill you and may not ask you to give up your protections not to be balance billed.

**If you get other types of services at these in-network facilities, out-of-network providers can't balance bill you, unless you give written consent and give up your protections.**

## Your Rights & Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills *(continued)*

**You're never required to give up your protections from balance billing. You also aren't required to get out-of-network care. You can choose a provider or facility in your plan's network.**

### **When balance billing isn't allowed, you also have these protections:**

- You're only responsible for paying your share of the cost (like the copayments, coinsurance, and deductible that you would pay if the provider or facility was in-network). Your health plan will pay any additional costs to out-of-network providers and facilities directly.
- Generally, your health plan must:
  - Cover emergency services without requiring you to get approval for services in advance (also known as "prior authorization").
  - Cover emergency services by out-of-network providers.
  - Base what you owe the provider or facility (cost-sharing) on what it would pay an in-network provider or facility and show that amount in your explanation of benefits.
  - Count any amount you pay for emergency services or out-of-network services toward your in-network deductible and out-of-pocket limit.

If you think you've been wrongly billed, contact: 1-800-985-3059

Visit [www.cms.gov/nosurprises/consumers](http://www.cms.gov/nosurprises/consumers) for more information about your rights under federal law.

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## **Important Notice from Osseo Area Schools 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 Osseo Area Schools 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. Osseo Area Schools has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Osseo Area Schools 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.

You can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15<sup>th</sup> to December 7<sup>th</sup>. However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan.

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your current Osseo Area Schools coverage will not be affected. However, if you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Osseo Area Schools coverage, be aware that you and your dependents might not be able to get this coverage back, depending on Osseo Area Schools eligibility policy.

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

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

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

Contact the person listed below for further information.

**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 Osseo Area Schools changes. You also may request a copy should you need it.

### **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:	7/1/2024
Name of Entity/Sender:	Osseo Area Schools
Contact--Position/Office:	Human Resources
Address:	11200 93 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. N, Maple Grove, MN 55369
Phone Number:	763-391-7000