BENEFITS SERVICES
OUR FOCUS IS
You





2007 Important Benefits Notices

Updated: October 2026



PGCPS

www.pgcps.org/benefits

Introduction

This brochure contains government mandated notices that are required to be provided to participants in the PGCPS benefit plans. Keep this brochure in a safe place in the event you need it in the future. If you have any questions, contact PGCPS Benefits Services by phone: **301-952-6600** or email: pgcps.benefits@pgcps.org.

Your entitlement to benefits under the PGCPS benefit plans is determined only by the legal plan documents, not by the notices in this brochure. In case of any conflict between the legal plan documents and the notices in this brochure, the terms of the legal plan documents will control.

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Creditable Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare Notice

The purpose of this notice is to advise you that the prescription drug coverage under the PGCPS prescription drug plans is expected to pay out, on average, at least as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay in 2027. This is known as “creditable coverage.”

Why this is important. If you or your covered dependent(s) are enrolled in a PGCPS prescription drug plan during 2027 and are or become covered by Medicare, you may decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan later and not be subject to a late enrollment penalty – as long as you had creditable coverage within 63 days of your Medicare prescription drug plan enrollment. You should keep this notice with your important records.

If you or your family members aren’t currently covered by Medicare and won’t become covered by Medicare in the next 12 months, this notice doesn’t apply to you.

Please read the notice below carefully. It has information about prescription drug coverage with PGCPS and prescription drug coverage available for people with Medicare. It also tells you where to find more information to help you make decisions about your prescription drug coverage.

Notice of Creditable Coverage

You may have heard about Medicare’s prescription drug coverage (called Part D), and wondered how it would affect you. Prescription drug coverage is available to everyone with Medicare through Medicare prescription drug plans. All Medicare prescription drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.

Individuals can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan when they first become eligible, and each year from October 15 through December 7. Individuals leaving employer/union coverage may be eligible for a Medicare Special Enrollment Period.

If you are covered by the PGCPS prescription drug plan, you should be aware that the prescription drug coverage under the plan is, on average, at least as good as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage for 2027. This is called creditable coverage. Coverage under the PGCPS prescription drug plan will help you avoid a late Part D enrollment penalty if you are or become eligible for Medicare and later decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan.

If you decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and you are an active employee or family member of an active employee, you may also continue your PGCPS coverage. In this case, the PGCPS plan will continue to pay primary as it had before you enrolled in a Medicare prescription drug plan. If you waive or drop PGCPS coverage, Medicare will be your only payer. As an active employee, you can re-enroll in the PGCPS plan at annual enrollment or if you have a special enrollment event for the PGCPS plan.

You should know that if you waive or leave coverage with PGCPS and you go 63 days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage (once your applicable Medicare enrollment period ends), your monthly Part D premium will go up at least 1% per month for every month that you did not have creditable coverage. For example, if you go 19 months without coverage, your Medicare prescription drug plan premium will always be at least 19% higher than what most other people pay. You’ll have to pay this higher premium as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to enroll in Part D.

You may receive this notice at other times in the future – such as before the next period you can enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage, if this PGCPS coverage changes, or upon your request.

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. Medicare participants will get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare prescription drug plans. Here's how to get more information about Medicare prescription drug plans:

- Visit **www.medicare.gov** for personalized help.
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see a copy of the *Medicare & You* handbook for the telephone number).
- Call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**. TTY users should call **1-877-486-2048**.

For people with limited income and resources, extra help paying for a Medicare prescription drug plan is available. Information about this extra help is available from the Social Security Administration (SSA). For more information about this extra help, visit SSA online at **www.socialsecurity.gov** or call **1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778)**.

Remember: Keep this notice. If you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan after your applicable Medicare enrollment period ends, you may need to provide a copy of this notice when you join a Part D plan to show that you are not required to pay a higher Part D premium amount.

For more information about this notice or your prescription drug coverage, contact:

PGCPS
Plan Administrator
Prince George's County Public Schools
Benefits Services
14201 School Lane, Room 132
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Phone: 301-952-6600
Email: **pgcps.benefits@pgcps.org**

Notice of Special Enrollment Rights for Health Plan Coverage

If you have declined enrollment in PGCPS's health plan for you or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance coverage, you or your dependents may be able to enroll in some coverages under the plan without waiting for the next open enrollment period, provided that you request enrollment within 30 days after your other coverage ends. 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 eligible dependents, provided that you request enrollment within 30 days after the marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption.

PGCPS will also allow a special enrollment opportunity if you or your eligible dependents either:

- Lose Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage because you are no longer eligible, or
- Become eligible for a state's premium assistance program under Medicaid or CHIP.

For these enrollment opportunities, you will have *60* days – instead of 30 – from the date of the Medicaid/CHIP eligibility change to request enrollment in the PGCPS health plan. Note that this new 60-day extension doesn't apply to enrollment opportunities other than due to the Medicaid/CHIP eligibility change.

Note: If your dependent becomes eligible for a special enrollment right, you may add that dependent, or any other of your dependents, to your current coverage or change to another PGCPS health plan.

Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act Notice

If you have had or are going to have a mastectomy, you may be entitled to certain benefits under the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA). For individuals receiving mastectomy-related benefits, coverage will be provided in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient for:

- All stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy was performed;
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance;
- Prostheses; and
- Treatment of physical complications of the mastectomy, including lymphedema.

These benefits will be provided subject to the same deductibles and coinsurance applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under the PGCPS health plan. If you would like more information on WHCRA benefits, call CareFirst Member Services at 1-800-628-8549 or Kaiser Permanente at 1-800-777-7902.

Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act Notice

Group health plans and health insurance issuers generally may not, under Federal law, restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, Federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under Federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the insurance issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours). If you would like more information on maternity benefits, call CareFirst Member Services at 1-800-628-8549 or Kaiser Permanente at 1-800-777-7902.

CHIP/Medicaid Notice
Premium Assistance Under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

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

If you or your dependents are already enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP and you live in a State listed on the next page, 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** 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** 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. Contact your State for more information on eligibility.

DELAWARE – Medicaid	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA – Medicaid
Website: **https://assist.dhss.delaware.gov/** Phone: 1-800-996-9969	Website: **https://dhcf.dc.gov/page/medicaid-state-plan** Phone: 1-877-685-6391
MARYLAND – Medicaid and CHIP	**PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid**
Website: **https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/chp/pages/home.aspx** Phone: 1-866-269-5576	Website: **https://www.pa.gov/en/services/dhs/apply-for-medicaid-health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp.html** Phone: 1-800-692-7462 CHIP Website: **Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (pa.gov)** CHIP Phone: 1-800-986-KIDS (5437)
VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP	**WEST VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP**
Website: Website: **https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/famis-select** **https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-programs** Medicaid/CHIP Phone: 1-800-432-5924	Website: **https://bms.wv.gov/** **http://mywvhipp.com/** Medicaid Phone: 304-558-1700 CHIP Toll-free phone: 1-855-MyWVHIPP (1-855-699-8447)

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

U.S. Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration
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
1-877-267-2323, Menu Option 4, Ext. 61565

PGCPS HIPAA Privacy Notice

Please carefully review this notice. It describes how health information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) imposes numerous requirements on the use and disclosure of individual health information by the PGCPS health Plan. This information, known as protected health information, includes almost all individually identifiable health information held by the Plan — whether received in writing, in an electronic medium, or as oral communication. This notice describes the privacy practices of the PGCPS health Plan. The Plan may use and disclose health information to carry out treatment, payment, or health care operations.

The Plan's duties with respect to health information about you

The Plan is required by law to maintain the privacy of your health information and to provide you with this notice of the Plan's legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your health information. It's important to note that these rules apply to the Plan, not PGCPS as an employer — that's the way the HIPAA rules work. Different policies may apply to other PGCPS programs or to data unrelated to the Plan.

How the Plan may use or disclose your health information

Privacy rules generally allow the use and disclosure of your health information without your permission (known as an authorization) for purposes of health care treatment, payment activities, and health care operations. Here are some examples of what that might entail:

- **Treatment** includes providing, coordinating, or managing health care by one or more health care providers or doctors. Treatment can also include coordination or management of care between a provider and a third party, and consultation and referrals between providers. For example, the Plan may share your health information with physicians who are treating you.
- **Payment** includes activities by this Plan, other plans, or providers to obtain premiums, make coverage determinations, and provide reimbursement for health care. This can include determining eligibility, reviewing services for medical necessity or appropriateness, engaging in utilization management activities, claims management, and billing; as well as performing "behind the scenes" plan functions, such as risk adjustment, collection, or reinsurance. For example, the Plan may share information about your coverage or the expenses you have incurred with another health plan to coordinate payment of benefits.
- **Health care operations** include activities by this Plan (and, in limited circumstances, by other plans or providers), such as wellness and risk assessment programs, quality assessment and improvement activities, customer service, and internal grievance resolution. Health care operations also include evaluating vendors; engaging in credentialing, training, and accreditation activities; performing underwriting or premium rating; arranging for medical review and audit activities; and conducting business planning and development. For example, the Plan may use information about your claims to audit the third parties that approve payment for Plan benefits.

The amount of health information used, disclosed, or requested will be limited and, when needed, restricted to the minimum necessary to accomplish the intended purposes, as defined under the HIPAA rules. If the Plan uses or discloses your health information for underwriting purposes, the Plan will not use or disclose health information that is your genetic information for such purposes.

How the Plan may share your health information with PGCPS

The Plan, or its health insurer, may disclose your health information without your written authorization to PGCPS for plan administration purposes. PGCPS may need your health information to administer benefits under the Plan. PGCPS agrees not to use or disclose your health information other than as permitted or required by the Plan documents and by law. Benefits, Payroll, and/or Finance staff are the only PGCPS employees who will have access to your health information for plan administration functions.

Here's how additional information may be shared between the Plan and PGCPS, as allowed under the HIPAA rules:

- The Plan, or its third party administrator or HMO, may disclose "summary health information" to PGCPS, if requested, for purposes of obtaining premium bids to provide coverage under the Plan or for modifying, amending, or terminating the Plan. Summary health information is information that summarizes participants' claims information, from which names and other identifying information have been removed.
- The Plan, or its third party administrator or HMO, may disclose to PGCPS information on whether an individual is participating in the Plan or has enrolled or disenrolled in a coverage option offered by the Plan.

In addition, you should know that PGCPS cannot and will not use health information obtained from the Plan for any employment-related actions. However, health information collected by PGCPS from other sources — for example, under the Family and Medical Leave Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, or workers' compensation programs — is *not* protected under HIPAA (although this type of information may be protected under other federal or state laws).

Other allowable uses or disclosures of your health information

In certain cases, your health information can be disclosed without authorization to a family member, close friend, or other person you identify who is involved in your care or payment for your care. Information about your location, general condition, or death may be provided to a similar person (or to a public or private entity authorized to assist in disaster relief efforts). You'll generally be given the chance to agree or object to these disclosures (although exceptions may be made — for example, if you're not present or if you're incapacitated). In addition, your health information may be disclosed without authorization from your legal representative.

The Plan also is allowed to use or disclose your health information without your written authorization for the following activities:

Workers' compensation	Disclosures to workers' compensation or similar legal programs that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness without regard to fault, as authorized by and necessary to comply with the laws
Necessary to prevent serious threat to health or safety	Disclosures made in the good-faith belief that releasing your health information is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to public or personal health or safety, if made to someone reasonably able to prevent or lessen the threat (or to the target of the threat); includes disclosures to help law enforcement officials identify or apprehend an individual who has admitted participation in a violent crime that the Plan reasonably believes may have caused serious physical harm to a victim, or where it appears the individual has escaped from prison or from lawful custody
Public health activities	Disclosures authorized by law to persons who may be at risk of contracting or spreading a disease or condition; disclosures to public health authorities to prevent or control disease or report child abuse or neglect; and disclosures to the Food and Drug Administration to collect or report adverse events or product defects
Victims of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence	Disclosures to government authorities, including social services or protected services agencies authorized by law to receive reports of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence, as required by law or if you agree or the Plan believes that disclosure is necessary to prevent serious harm to you or potential victims (you'll be notified of the Plan's disclosure if informing you won't put you at further risk)

Judicial and administrative proceedings	Disclosures in response to a court or administrative order, subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process (the Plan may be required to notify you of the request or receive satisfactory assurance from the party seeking your health information that efforts were made to notify you or to obtain a qualified protective order concerning the information)
Law enforcement purposes	Disclosures to law enforcement officials required by law or legal process, or to identify a suspect, fugitive, witness, or missing person; disclosures about a crime victim if you agree or if disclosure is necessary for immediate law enforcement activity; disclosures about a death that may have resulted from criminal conduct; and disclosures to provide evidence of criminal conduct on the Plan's premises
Decedents	Disclosures to a coroner or medical examiner to identify the deceased or determine cause of death; and to funeral directors to carry out their duties
Organ, eye, or tissue donation	Disclosures to organ procurement organizations or other entities to facilitate organ, eye, or tissue donation and transplantation after death
Research purposes	Disclosures subject to approval by institutional or private privacy review boards, subject to certain assurances and representations by researchers about the necessity of using your health information and the treatment of the information during a research project
Health oversight activities	Disclosures to health agencies for activities authorized by law (audits, inspections, investigations, or licensing actions) for oversight of the health care system, government benefits programs for which health information is relevant to beneficiary eligibility, and compliance with regulatory programs or civil rights laws
Specialized government functions	Disclosures about individuals who are Armed Forces personnel or foreign military personnel under appropriate military command; disclosures to authorized federal officials for national security or intelligence activities; and disclosures to correctional facilities or custodial law enforcement officials about inmates
HHS investigations	Disclosures of your health information to the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate or determine the Plan's compliance with the HIPAA privacy rule

Except as described in this notice, other uses and disclosures will be made only with your written authorization. For example, in most cases, the Plan will obtain your authorization before it communicates with you about products or programs if the Plan is being paid to make those communications. If the Plan keeps psychotherapy notes in its records, the Plan will obtain your authorization in some cases before it releases those records. The Plan will never sell your health information unless you have authorized the Plan to do so. You may revoke your authorization as allowed under the HIPAA rules. However, you can't revoke your authorization with respect to disclosures the Plan has already made. You will be notified of any unauthorized access, use, or disclosure of your unsecured health information as required by law.

The Plan will notify you if it becomes aware that there has been a loss of your health information in a manner that could compromise the privacy of your health information.

Your individual rights

You have the following rights with respect to your health information the Plan maintains. These rights are subject to certain limitations, as discussed below. This section of the notice describes how you may exercise each individual right. See the table at the end of this notice for information on how to submit requests.

Right to request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of your health information and the Plan's right to refuse

You have the right to ask the Plan to restrict the use and disclosure of your health information for treatment, payment, or health care operations, except for uses or disclosures required by law. You have the right to ask the Plan to restrict the use and disclosure of your health information to family members, close friends, or other persons you identify as being involved in your care or payment for your care. You also have the right to ask the Plan to restrict use and disclosure of health information to notify those persons of your location, general condition, or death — or to coordinate those efforts with entities assisting in disaster relief efforts. If you want to exercise this right, your request to the Plan must be in writing.

The Plan is not required to agree to a requested restriction. If the Plan does agree, a restriction may later be terminated by your written request, by agreement between you and the Plan (including an oral agreement), or unilaterally by the Plan for health information created or received after you're notified that the Plan has removed the restrictions. The Plan may also disclose health information about you if you need emergency treatment, even if the Plan has agreed to a restriction.

An entity covered by these HIPAA rules (such as your health care provider) or its business associate must comply with your request that health information regarding a specific health care item or service not be disclosed to the Plan for purposes of payment or health care operations if you have paid out of pocket and in full for the item or service.

Right to receive confidential communications of your health information

If you think that disclosure of your health information by the usual means could endanger you in some way, the Plan will accommodate reasonable requests to receive communications of health information from the Plan by alternative means or at alternative locations.

If you want to exercise this right, your request to the Plan must be in writing and you must include a statement that disclosure of all or part of the information could endanger you.

Right to inspect and copy your health information

With certain exceptions, you have the right to inspect or obtain a copy of your health information in a "designated record set." This may include medical and billing records maintained for a health care provider; enrollment, payment, claims adjudication, and case or medical management record systems maintained by a plan; or a group of records the Plan uses to make decisions about individuals. However, you do not have a right to inspect or obtain copies of psychotherapy notes or information compiled for civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings. The Plan may deny your right to access, although in certain circumstances, you may request a review of the denial.

If you want to exercise this right, your request to the Plan must be in writing. Within 30 days of receipt of your request (60 days if the health information is not accessible on site), the Plan will provide you with one of these responses:

- The access or copies you requested

- A written denial that explains why your request was denied and any rights you may have to have the denial reviewed or file a complaint
- A written statement that the time period for reviewing your request will be extended for no more than 30 more days, along with the reasons for the delay and the date by which the Plan expects to address your request

You may also request your health information be sent to another entity or person, so long as that request is clear, conspicuous, and specific. The Plan may provide you with a summary or explanation of the information instead of access to or copies of your health information, if you agree in advance and pay any applicable fees. The Plan also may charge reasonable fees for copies or postage. If the Plan doesn't maintain the health information but knows where it is maintained, you will be informed where to direct your request.

If the Plan keeps your records in an electronic format, you may request an electronic copy of your health information in a form and format readily producible by the Plan. You may also request that such electronic health information be sent to another entity or person, so long as that request is clear, conspicuous, and specific. Any charge that is assessed to you for these copies must be reasonable and based on the Plan's cost.

Right to amend your health information that is inaccurate or incomplete

With certain exceptions, you have a right to request that the Plan amend your health information in a designated record set. The Plan may deny your request for a number of reasons. For example, your request may be denied if the health information is accurate and complete, was not created by the Plan (unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available), is not part of the designated record set, or is not available for inspection (e.g., psychotherapy notes or information compiled for civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings).

If you want to exercise this right, your request to the Plan must be in writing, and you must include a statement to support the requested amendment. Within 60 days of receipt of your request, the Plan will take one of these actions:

- Make the amendment as requested
- Provide a written denial that explains why your request was denied and any rights you may have to disagree or file a complaint
- Provide a written statement that the time period for reviewing your request will be extended for no more than 30 more days, along with the reasons for the delay and the date by which the Plan expects to address your request

Right to receive an accounting of disclosures of your health information

You have the right to a list of certain disclosures of your health information the Plan has made. This is often referred to as an "accounting of disclosures." You generally may receive this accounting if the disclosure is required by law, in connection with public health activities, or in similar situations listed in the table earlier in this notice, unless otherwise indicated below.

You may receive information on disclosures of your health information for up to six years before the date of your request. You do not have a right to receive an accounting of any disclosures made in any of these circumstances:

- For treatment, payment, or health care operations
- To you about your own health information
- Incidental to other permitted or required disclosures
- Where authorization was provided
- To family members or friends involved in your care (where disclosure is permitted without authorization)
- For national security or intelligence purposes or to correctional institutions or law enforcement officials in certain circumstances
- As part of a "limited data set" (health information that excludes certain identifying information)

In addition, your right to an accounting of disclosures to a health oversight agency or law enforcement official may be suspended at the request of the agency or official.

If you want to exercise this right, your request to the Plan must be in writing. Within 60 days of the request, the Plan will provide you with the list of disclosures or a written statement that the time period for providing this list will be extended for no more than 30 more days, along with the reasons for the delay and the date by which the Plan expects to address your request. You may make one request in any 12-month period at no cost to you, but the Plan may charge a fee for subsequent requests. You'll be notified of the fee in advance and have the opportunity to change or revoke your request.

Right to obtain a paper copy of this notice from the Plan upon request

You have the right to obtain a paper copy of this privacy notice upon request. Even individuals who agreed to receive this notice electronically may request a paper copy at any time.

Changes to the information in this notice

The Plan must abide by the terms of the privacy notice currently in effect. This notice takes effect in February 2026. However, the Plan reserves the right to change the terms of its privacy policies, as described in this notice, at any time and to make new provisions effective for all health information that the Plan maintains. This includes health information that was previously created or received, not just health information created or received after the policy is changed. If material changes are made to the Plan's privacy policies described in this notice, a revised privacy notice will be made available.

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

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

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

To the extent that we have your substance use disorder patient records, subject to 42 CFR part 2, we will not share that information for investigations or legal proceedings against you without (1) your written consent or (2) a court order and a subpoena.

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, office, or mobile 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,” for example, if it could affect your care. If we agree to your request, we may still share this information in the event that you need emergency treatment.

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 someone has authority to act as your personal representative, such as if someone has your 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 1.
- 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 **https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/filing-a-complaint/index.html.**
- 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.
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.

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. And in all cases, if we have substance use disorder patient records about you, subject to 42 CFR part 2, we cannot use or share information in those records in civil, criminal, administrative, or legislative investigations or proceedings against you without (1) your consent or (2) a court order and a subpoena.

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.

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 in this notice 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**.

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 can be mailed to you upon request.

Complaints

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated or your Plan has not followed its legal obligations under HIPAA, you may complain to the Plan and to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. You won't be retaliated against for filing a complaint. To file a complaint, please direct correspondence to:

PGCPS
Plan Administrator
Prince George's County Public Schools
Benefits Services
14201 School Lane, Room 132
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Phone: 301-952-6600
Email: **pgcps.benefits@pgcps.org**

Department of Health and Human Services,
Office for Civil Rights
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 509F, HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20241

Phone: 800-368-1019
Email: **OCRPrivacy@hhs.gov**

Contact

For more information on the Plan's privacy policies or your rights under HIPAA, contact the PGCPS Benefits Services by phone: 301-952-6600 or email: **pgcps.benefits@pgcps.org**.

Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage

Part A: General Information

Even if you are offered health coverage through your employment, you may have other coverage options through the Health Insurance Marketplace ("Marketplace"). To assist you as you evaluate options for you and your family, this notice provides some basic information about the 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 in your geographic area.

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

You may qualify to save money and lower your monthly premium and other out-of-pocket costs, but only if your employer does not offer coverage, or offers coverage that is not considered affordable for you and doesn't meet certain minimum value standards (discussed below). The savings that you're eligible for depends on your household income. You may also be eligible for a tax credit that lowers your costs.

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 is considered affordable for you and meets certain minimum value standards, you will not be eligible for a tax credit, or advance payment of the tax credit, for your Marketplace coverage and may wish to enroll in your employment-based health plan. However, you may be eligible for a tax credit, and advance payments of the 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 is considered affordable for you or meet minimum value standards. If your share of the premium cost of all plans offered to you through your employment is more than 10.22%[1] of your annual household income, or if the coverage through your employment does not meet the "minimum value" standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit, and advance payment of the credit, if you do not enroll in the employment-based health coverage. For family members of the employee, coverage is considered affordable if the employee's cost of premiums for the lowest-cost plan that would cover all family members does not exceed 10.22% of the employee's household income.[1, 2]

Note: If you purchase a health plan through the Marketplace instead of accepting health coverage offered through your employment, then you may lose access to whatever the employer contributes to the employment-based coverage. Also, this employer contribution -as well as your employee contribution to employment-based coverage- is generally excluded from income for federal and state income tax purposes. Your payments for coverage through the Marketplace are made on an after-tax basis. In addition, note that if the health coverage offered through your employment does not meet the affordability or minimum value standards, but you accept that coverage anyway, you will not be eligible for a tax credit. You should consider all of these factors in determining whether to purchase a health plan through the Marketplace.

1 Indexed annually; see **https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/rp-22-34.pdf** for 2027.
2 An employer-sponsored or other employment-based 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. For purposes of eligibility for the premium tax credit, to meet the "minimum value standard," the health plan must also provide substantial coverage of both inpatient hospital services and physician services.

When Can I Enroll?

You can enroll in a Marketplace health insurance plan during the annual Marketplace Open Enrollment Period. Open Enrollment varies by state but generally starts November 1 and continues through at least December 15.

Outside the annual Open Enrollment Period, you can sign up for health insurance if you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period. In general, you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period if you've had certain qualifying life events, such as getting married, having a baby, adopting a child, or losing eligibility for other health coverage. Depending on your Special Enrollment Period type, you may have 60 days before or 60 days following the qualifying life event to enroll in a Marketplace plan.

To learn more, visit **HealthCare.gov** or call the Marketplace Call Center at **1-800-318-2596**. TTY users can call 1-855-889-4325.

What About Alternatives to Marketplace Health Insurance Coverage?

If you or your family are eligible for coverage in an employment-based health plan (such as an employer-sponsored health plan), you or your family may also be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period to enroll in that health plan in certain circumstances, including if you or your dependents were enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP coverage and lost that coverage.

Alternatively, you can enroll in Medicaid or CHIP coverage at any time by filling out an application through the Marketplace or applying directly through your state Medicaid agency. Visit **https://www.healthcare.gov/medicaid-chip/getting-medicaid-chip/** for more details.

How Can I Get More Information?

For more information about your coverage offered by your employer, please check your summary plan description or contact PGCPS Benefits Services by phone: **301-952-6600** or email: **pgcps.benefits@pgcps.org**.

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

PART B: Information About Health Coverage Offered by Your Employer

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

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">3. Employer Name:
Prince George's County Public Schools</td><td colspan="2">4. Employer Identification Number (EIN):
See your W-2</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">1. Employer address:
14201 School Lane</td><td colspan="2">2. Employer phone number:
301-952-6000</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">7. City: Upper Marlboro</td><td>8. State: MD</td><td>9. Zip code: 20772</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">10. Who can we contact about employee health coverage at this job?
Human Resources</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">11. Phone number (if different from above)
301-952-6600</td><td colspan="2">12. Email address:
pgcps.benefits@pgcps.org</td></tr>
</table>

Here is some basic information about health coverage offered by Prince George's County Public Schools:

- As your employer, we offer a health plan to Prince George's County Public Schools employees who receive an annual salary and work at least 15 hours per week.
- With respect to dependents, we offer coverage to:
  - Spouse
  - Eligible children up to age 26, including your biological children, stepchildren, adopted children and children for whom you have legal guardianship. You may cover disabled dependents beyond age 26 if the disability is certified.

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

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

If you decide to shop for coverage in the Marketplace, **HealthCare.gov** will guide you through the process. Here's the employer information you'll enter when you visit **HealthCare.gov** to find out if you can get a tax credit to lower your monthly premiums.

The information below corresponds to the Marketplace Employer Coverage Tool. Completing this section is optional for employers but will help ensure employees understand their coverage choices.

13. Is the employee currently eligible for coverage offered by this employer, or will the employee be eligible in the next 3 months?

X Yes (Continue)

13a. If the employee is not eligible today, including as a result of a waiting or probationary period, when is the employee eligible for coverage? (mm/dd/yyyy) (Continue)

☐ **No** (STOP and return this form to employee)

14. Does the employer offer a health plan that meets the minimum value standard*?
X Yes (Go to question 15) ☐ No (STOP and return form to employee)

15. For the lowest-cost plan that meets the minimum value standard* offered **only to the employee** (don't include family plans): If the employer has wellness programs, provide the premium that the employee would pay if he/ she received the maximum discount for any tobacco cessation programs, and didn't receive any other discounts based on wellness programs.

a. How much would the employee have to pay in premiums for this plan?
Kaiser Medical and Prescription

	2027	2027	2027
Active Employees with 0-8 Years of Service - 25% Contribution	**10-Month (20 Pays)**	**11-Month (24 Pays)**	**12-Month (26 Pays)**
Employee Only	$ 117.19	$ 97.66	$ 90.15

Active Employees with 8+ Years of Service - 20% Contribution	**10-Month (20 Pays)**	**11-Month (24 Pays)**	**12-Month (26 Pays)**
Employee Only	$ 93.75	$ 78.13	$ 72.12

b. How often? ☐ Weekly ☐Every 2 weeks **X** Twice a month ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Yearly

If the plan year will end soon and you know that the health plans offered will change, go to question 16. If you don't know, STOP and return form to the employee.

16. What change will the employer make for the new plan year?
☐ Employer won't offer health coverage.

☐ Employer will start offering health coverage to employees or change the premium for the lowest-cost plan available only to the employee that meets the minimum value standard.[1] (Premium should reflect the discount for wellness programs. See question 15.)

a. How much will the employee have to pay in premiums for that plan? $_____
b. How often? ☐ Weekly ☐ Every 2 weeks ☐ Twice a month ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Yearly

*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 (Section 36B(c)(2)(C)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

No Surprises Act Notice

Your Rights and Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills
When you get emergency care or get treated by an out-of-network provider at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, you are protected from surprise billing or balance billing.

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

When you see a doctor or other healthcare provider, you may owe certain out-of-pocket costs, such as a copayment, coinsurance, and/or a deductible. You may have other 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" describes providers and facilities that haven't signed a contract with your health plan. Out-of-network providers may be permitted to bill you for the difference between what your plan agreed to pay, 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 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.

You are 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 the provider or facility may bill you is your plan's in-network cost-sharing amount (such as copayments and coinsurance). 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 balanced 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 may 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 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.

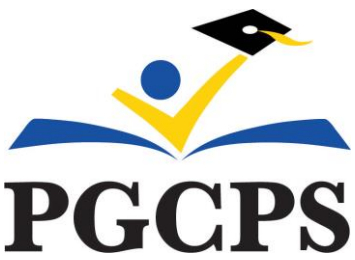
You're never required to give up your protections from balance billing. You also aren't required to get care out-of-network. You can choose a provider or facility in your plan's network.

When balance billing isn't allowed, you also have the following protections:

- You are only responsible for paying your share of the cost (like the copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles that you would pay if the provider or facility was in-network). Your health plan will pay out-of-network providers and facilities directly.
- Your health plan generally must:
  - Cover emergency services without requiring you to get approval for services in advance (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 deductible and out-of-pocket limit.

If you believe you've been wrongly billed, you may contact U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at 1-800-985-3059. Visit **No Surprises Act | CMS** for more information about your rights under federal law.



PGCPS Benefits **Important Benefit Notices for 2027**

Updated October 2026