

City of Chandler
Important Benefit Program Notices for Retirees

Updated September, 2024

This document contains important Retiree benefit program notices of interest to you and your family. Please share this information with your family members. Some of the notices in this document are required by law and other notices contain helpful information. These notices are updated from time to time and some of the federal notices are updated each year. Be sure you are reviewing an updated version of this important notices document.

Si no comprendes la información contenida en este documento por favor póngase en contacto con el Departamento de Beneficios recursos humanos Administracion en 480-782-2350.

MEDICARE NOTICE OF CREDITABLE COVERAGE REMINDER

If you or your eligible dependents are currently Medicare eligible, or will become Medicare eligible during the next 12 months, you need to be sure that you understand whether the prescription drug coverage that you elect under the Medical Plan options available to you are **or are not creditable with (as valuable as) Medicare's prescription drug coverage.**

To find out whether the prescription drug coverage under the medical plan options offered by **the City of Chandler are or are not creditable, you should review the Plan's Medicare Part D Notice of Creditable Coverage** starting on page 10 of this document.

It is also available from the City's Human Resources Department at 480-782-2350.

This information does not apply to retirees and dependents who are covered under a Medicare Advantage plan

MID-YEAR CHANGES TO YOUR HEALTH CARE BENEFIT ELECTIONS

IMPORTANT: After this open enrollment period is completed, generally you will not be allowed to change your **benefit elections or add/delete dependents until next years' open enrollment, unless you have a Special Enrollment Event or a Mid-year Change in Status Event** as outlined below:

- *Special Enrollment Event:*

Loss of Other Coverage Event: 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 your **employer stops contributing toward your or your dependents' other coverage**). However, you must request enrollment within 31 days **after your or your dependents' other coverage ends (or after the employer stops contributing towards the other coverage).**

Marriage, Birth, Adoption Event: 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 31 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

Medicaid/CHIP Event: You and your eligible dependents may also enroll in this plan if you (or your dependents):

- have coverage through Medicaid or a **State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and you (or your dependents) lose eligibility for that coverage.** However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after

the Medicaid or CHIP coverage ends.

- become eligible for a premium assistance program through Medicaid or CHIP. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after you (or your dependents) are determined to be eligible for such assistance.

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact the City's Human Resources Department at 480-782-2350.

- *Mid-Year Change in Status Event:* Because the City of Chandler pre-taxes benefits for active employees, we are required to follow Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations on if and when benefits can be changed in the middle of a plan year. The City of Chandler has chosen to allow mid-year changes for retiree beneficiaries in the same manner as is permitted for active employees. The following events may allow certain changes in benefits mid-year, if permitted by the IRS:
 - Change in legal marital status (e.g. marriage, divorce/legal separation, death).
 - Change in number or status of dependents (e.g. birth, adoption, death).
 - **Change in employee/spouse/dependent's employment status, work schedule, or residence that affects their eligibility for benefits.**
 - Coverage of a child due to a QMCSO.
 - Entitlement or loss of entitlement to Medicare or Medicaid.
 - Certain changes in the cost of coverage, composition of coverage or curtailment of coverage of the **employee or spouse's** plan.
 - Changes consistent with Special Enrollment rights and FMLA leaves.

You must notify the plan in writing within 31 days of the mid-year change in status event by contacting the City's Human Resources Department at 480-782-2350. The Plan will determine if your change request is permitted and if so, changes become effective prospectively, on the first day of the month, following the approved change in status event (except for newborn and adopted children, who are covered back to the date of birth, adoption, or placement for adoption).

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO PROVIDE THE PLAN WITH THE TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (TIN) OR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (SSN) OF EACH ENROLLEE IN A HEALTH PLAN

Employers are required by law to collect the taxpayer identification number (TIN) or social security number (SSN) of each medical plan participant and provide that number on reports that will be provided to the IRS each year. Employers are required to make at least two consecutive attempts to gather missing TINs/SSNs.

If a dependent does not yet have a social security number, you can go to this website to complete a form to request a SSN: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/online/ss-5.pdf>. Applying for a social security number is FREE.

The SSN will also be used to help fulfill mandatory reporting requirements to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) for the purposes of permitting Medicare to coordinate benefits for individuals enrolled in both an employer-sponsored medical plan and Medicare.

If you have not yet provided the social security number (or other TIN) for each of your dependents that you have **enrolled in the health plan, please contact the City's Human Resources Department at 480-782-2350.**

PRIVACY NOTICE REMINDER

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 requires health plans to comply with privacy rules. These rules are intended to protect your personal health information from being inappropriately used and

disclosed. The rules also give you additional rights concerning control of your own healthcare information.

This Plan's HIPAA Privacy Notice explains how the group health plan uses and discloses your personal health information. You are provided a copy of this Notice on page 6 of this document. You can get another copy of this Notice from the City's Human Resources Department at 480-782-2350.

WOMEN'S HEALTH AND CANCER RIGHTS ACT OF 1998 (WHCRA) ANNUAL NOTICE REMINDER

You or your dependents 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, copayment and coinsurance applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under the various medical plans offered by the City of Chandler. For more information on WHCRA benefits, **contact the City's Human Resources Department at 480-782-2350.**

AVAILABILITY OF SUMMARY OF BENEFIT AND COVERAGE (SBC) DOCUMENT(S)

The health benefits available to you represent a significant component of your compensation package. They also provide important protection for you and your family in the case of illness or injury. In accordance with law, our plan provides you with a Summary of Benefits and Coverage or SBC as a way to help you understand and compare medical plan benefits. The SBC summarizes and compares important information including, what is covered, what you need to pay for various benefits, what is not covered, and where to get answers to questions. SBC documents are updated when there is a change to the benefits information displayed on an SBC. To get a free copy of the most current Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC) documents for our medical plan options, and the Uniform Glossary that defines many terms in the SBC go to www.chandleraz.gov/benefits. For a paper copy, contact the **City's Human Resources Department at 480-782-2350.**

NEWBORNS' AND MOTHERS' HEALTH PROTECTION ACT NOTICE

Hospital Length of Stay for Childbirth: Under federal law, group health plans generally may not restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or the newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, the Plan may pay for a shorter stay if the attending Physician (e.g., Physician, or Health Care Practitioner), after consultation with the mother, discharges the mother or newborn earlier.

Also, under federal law, plans may not set the level of benefits or out-of-pocket costs so that any later portion of the 48-hour (or 96-hour) stay is treated in a manner less favorable to the mother or newborn than any earlier portion of the stay.

In addition, the Plan may not, under federal law, require that a Physician or other Health Care Practitioner obtain authorization for prescribing a length of stay of up to 48 hours (or 96 hours). However, to use certain providers or facilities, or to reduce your out-of-pocket costs, you may be required to obtain precertification. For information on precertification for a length of stay longer than 48 hours for vaginal birth or 96 hours for C-section, contact BCBSAZ at 877-694-2583 to precertify the extended **stay. If you have questions about this Notice, contact the City's Human Resources Department at 480-782-2350.**

PATIENT PROTECTION RIGHTS OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Designation of a Primary Care Provider (PCP) and Direct Access to OB/GYN Providers:

The City-sponsored medical plans do not require the selection or designation of a primary care provider (PCP). You have the ability to visit any in-network (or non-network) health care provider; however, payment by the Plan may be less for the use of a non-network provider. To locate an in-network provider, visit www.azblue.com.

You also do not need prior authorization from the Plan or from any other person (including a primary care provider) in order to obtain access to obstetrical or gynecological care from a health care professional who specializes in obstetrics or gynecology. The health care professional, however, may be required to comply with certain procedures, including obtaining prior authorization for certain services, following a pre-approved treatment plan, or procedures for making referrals. For a list of participating health care professionals who specialize in obstetrics or gynecology (OB/GYN), contact the BCBSAZ at 877-694-2583.

COBRA COVERAGE REMINDER

In compliance with a federal law referred to as COBRA Continuation Coverage, this plan offers qualified beneficiaries the opportunity to elect temporary continuation of their group health coverage when that coverage would otherwise end because of certain events (called qualifying events).

Qualified beneficiaries are entitled to elect COBRA when qualifying events occur, and, as a result of the qualifying event, coverage of that qualified beneficiary ends. Qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA Continuation Coverage must pay for it at their own expense.

Qualifying events for dependents enrolled in Retiree coverage typically include death of the retiree, divorce/legal separation from the retiree, or a child ceasing to be an eligible dependent child.

In addition to considering COBRA as a way to continue coverage, there may be other coverage options for you and your family. You may want to look for coverage through the Health Care Marketplace. See <https://www.healthcare.gov/>. In the Marketplace, you could be eligible for a tax credit that lowers your monthly premiums for Marketplace coverage, and you can see what your premium, deductibles, and out-of-pocket costs will be before you make a decision to enroll. Being eligible for COBRA does not limit your eligibility for coverage for a tax credit through the Marketplace. Additionally, you may qualify for a special enrollment opportunity for another **group health plan for which you are eligible (such as a spouse's plan) if you request enrollment within 30 days, even if the plan generally does not accept late enrollees.**

The maximum period of COBRA coverage is generally either 18 months or 36 months, depending on which qualifying event occurred.

In order to have the chance to elect COBRA coverage after a divorce/legal separation or a child ceasing to be a dependent child under the plan, you must inform the plan in writing of that event no later than 60 days after that event occurs. That notice should be sent to Human Resources via first class mail and is to include the retiree's name, the qualifying event, the date of the event, and the appropriate documentation in support of the qualifying event (such as divorce documents or death **certificate**). **If you have questions about COBRA contact the City's Human Resources Department at 480-782-2350 or the City's COBRA Administrator, Flexible Benefit Administrators, Inc., at (800) 437-3539.**

KEEP THE PLAN NOTIFIED OF CHANGES IN ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE TIMELY NOTICE

You or your Dependents must promptly furnish to the City's Human Resources Department at 480-782-2350 information regarding change of name, address, marriage, divorce or legal separation, death of any covered family member, birth or change in status of a Dependent Child, Medicare enrollment or disenrollment, an individual meets the termination provisions of the Plan, or the existence of other coverage. Proof of legal documentation will be required for certain changes.

Notify the Plan of any of these changes within 31 days.

For certain changes, like divorce or a child reaching the limiting age, if you do not notify the Plan within 60 days of that change, the opportunity to elect COBRA will not apply.

Failure to give the City's Human Resources Department at 480-782-2350 a timely notice of the above noted events may:

- a. cause you, your Spouse and/or Dependent Child(ren) to lose the right to obtain COBRA Continuation Coverage,
- b. cause the coverage of a Dependent Child to end when it otherwise might continue because of a disability,
- c. cause claims to not be able to be considered for payment until eligibility issues have been resolved,
- d. result in your liability to repay the Plan if any benefits are paid to an ineligible person. The Plan has the right to offset the amounts paid against the **participant's** future medical, dental, and/or vision benefits.

In accordance with the requirements in the Affordable Care Act, your employer will not retroactively cancel coverage (a rescission) except when premiums are not timely paid, or in cases when an individual performs an act, practice or omission that constitutes fraud, or makes an intentional misrepresentation of material fact that is prohibited by the terms of the Plan. Keeping an ineligible dependent enrolled (for example, an ex-spouse, overage dependent child, etc.) is considered fraud. **If you have questions about eligibility contact the City's Human Resources Department at 480-782-2350.**

IMPORTANT NOTICES ATTACHED

The following pages include important notices for you and your family:

- HIPAA Privacy Notice..... page 6
- Medicare Part D Notice.....page 10
- Notice about Premium Assistance with Medicaid and CHIP.....page 17

City of Chandler HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

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

Este aviso está disponible en Español si lo solicita. Por favor contacte el oficial de privacidad indicado a continuación.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) requires group health plans to take reasonable steps to maintain the privacy of your personally identifiable health information, referred to here as “Protected Health Information” or “PHI”. It also gives you certain rights with respect to that information.

This notice describes the privacy practices of the City of Chandler’s self-funded group health plan (hereafter referred to as the “Plan”), including these benefits: Medical, Dental, Vision, and Health Care Flexible Spending Account.

It is important to note that HIPAA’s privacy rules apply to health plans. Different privacy or confidentiality policies may apply to other City of Chandler sponsored programs, such as life insurance or disability. You may also receive a Privacy Notice from the companies who offer Plan participants insured health care services sponsored by the City of Chandler.

The Plan’s Responsibilities

The Plan is required by law to maintain the privacy of your protected health information and to inform you about:

- The Plan’s legal duties and practices regarding the use and disclosure of your PHI
- Your rights with respect to your PHI.
- Your right to file a complaint with the Plan and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS);
- A breach that compromises the privacy or security of your PHI; and
- Whom you may contact for additional information about the Plan’s privacy practices.

The Plan will follow the terms of this notice, as it may be updated from time to time. The effective date of this Notice is **September 1, 2020**, and this notice replaces notices previously distributed to you. The Plan reserves the right to change the terms of its privacy policies at any time and to make new provisions effective for all health information that the Plan maintains.

How The Plan May Use Or Disclose Your Health Information

The privacy rules generally allow the use and disclosure of your health information without your written authorization for purposes of treatment, payment and health care operations. Here are some examples of what this encompasses:

- **Treatment** includes providing, coordinating, or managing health care by a health care provider or doctor. 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 health information about you 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. *For example, the Plan may share information about your coverage or the expenses you have incurred with another health plan in order to coordinate payment of benefits.*
- **Health care operations** include activities by the Plan such as wellness and risk assessment programs, quality assessment and improvement activities, customer service, and the claims and appeal process. Health

care operations also include vendor evaluations, credentialing, training, accreditation activities, underwriting, premium rating, arranging for medical review and audit activities, and business planning and development. The Plan will not use PHI that is genetic information for underwriting purposes. *For example, the Plan may use information about your claims to review the effectiveness of wellness programs.*

The Plan will only disclose the minimum information necessary with respect to the amount of health information used or disclosed for these purposes. In other words, only information relating to the task being performed will be used or disclosed. Information not required for the task will not be used or disclosed. The Plan may also contact you to provide information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

How The Plan May Share Your Health Information With The City Of Chandler

In general, the Plan does not need your written authorization to release your PHI if required by law or for public health and safety purposes. The Plan and its Business Associates are allowed to use and disclose your PHI without your written authorization (in compliance with section 164.512) under the following circumstances:

As required by law	Disclosures to federal, state or local agencies in accordance with applicable law.
Workers' compensation	Disclosures to workers' compensation or similar programs in accordance with federal, state or local laws
Proof of Immunization	Disclosures to a school about an individual who is a student or prospective student of the school if the Protected Health Information that is disclosed is limited to proof of immunization.
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; includes disclosures to assist law enforcement officials in identifying or apprehending an individual in certain circumstances
Public health activities	Disclosures for public health reasons, including: (1) to a public health authority for the prevention or control of disease, injury or disability; (2) a proper government or health authority to report child abuse or neglect; (3) to report reactions to medications or problems with products regulated by the Food and Drug Administration; (4) to notify individuals of recalls of medication or products they may be using; (5) to notify a person who may have been exposed to a communicable disease or who may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition
Victims of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence	Disclosures to report a suspected case of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence, as permitted or required by applicable law
Judicial and administrative proceedings	Disclosures in response to an order of a court or administrative tribunal or in response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process once HIPAA's administrative requirements have been met
Law enforcement purposes	Disclosures to law enforcement officials required by law or pursuant to legal process for law enforcement purposes
Death	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, and subject to certain assurances and representations by researchers regarding necessity of using your health information and treatment of the information during a research project
Public health oversight activities	Disclosures to comply with oversight of government benefit programs, such as audits, inspections, or investigations and activities related to health care provision or public benefits or services (for example, to investigate Medicare or Medicaid fraud).

Specialized government functions	Disclosures to facilitate specified government functions related to the military and veterans, national security or intelligence activities; disclosures to correctional facilities about inmates
HHS investigations	Disclosures of your health information to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to investigate or determine the Plan's compliance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule

In addition, the HIPAA rules allow information to be shared between the Plan and City of Chandler as follows:

- The Plan may disclose “summary health information” to the City of Chandler 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, but from which names and other identifying information have been removed.
- The Plan may disclose information to the City of Chandler as to whether an individual is participating in the Plan, or has enrolled or disenrolled in a health benefit option offered by the Plan.

In addition, you should know that the City of Chandler cannot and will not use health information obtained from the health plans for any employment-related actions. However, health information collected by the City of Chandler from sources other than the Plan, for example under the Family and Medical Leave Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, or workers’ compensation 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

Generally, the Plan may disclose your protected health information to a friend or family member that you have identified as being involved in your health care or payment for that care. In the case of an emergency, information describing 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). In addition, your health information may be disclosed without authorization to your legal representative (e.g. individual designated with health care power of attorney or court-appointed legal conservators and legal guardians). The Plan will consider a parent, guardian, or other person acting *in loco parentis* as a legal representative of an unemancipated minor (a child generally under age 18) unless the applicable law requires otherwise.

Except as described in this notice, other uses and disclosures of PHI, such as marketing purposes, use of psychotherapy notes, and disclosures that constitute the sale of PHI, will be made only with your written authorization. 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.

Your Individual Rights

You have the following rights in connection with your health information that the Plan maintains. These rights are subject to certain limitations, described below. Remember, the City of Chandler does not generally receive or maintain individually identifiable health information from the Plan. In most cases, you should direct your requests to your medical or dental plan service representative.

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 request a restriction or limitation on the Plan’s use or disclosure of your health information. For example, 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. Because the Plan only uses your health information to administer the Plan, and to comply with the law, it may not be possible to agree to your request. The law does not require the Plan to agree to your request for restriction. However, if the Plan agrees, the Plan will comply with the restriction unless the information is needed to provide emergency treatment to you.

Right To Receive Confidential Communications Of Your Health Information

You have the right to request that the Plan communicate with you about your health information at an alternative

address or by alternative means if you think that communication through normal processes could endanger you in some way. For example, you may request that the Plan only contact you at work and not at home.

Right To Inspect And Copy Your Health Information

You have the right to inspect or obtain a copy of your health information contained in records that the Plan maintains for enrollment, payment, claims determination, or case or medical management activities, or that the Plan uses to make enrollment, coverage or payment decisions. However, you do not have a right to inspect or obtain copies of psychotherapy notes or information compiled for civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings. In addition, the Plan may deny your right to access, although in certain circumstances you may request a review of the denial. If the Plan doesn't maintain the health information but knows where it is maintained, you will be informed of where to direct your request. 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.

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 if you believe that the information the Plan has about you is incomplete or incorrect. You must include a statement to support the requested amendment. The Plan will notify you of its decision to grant or deny your request.

Right To Receive An Accounting Of Disclosures

You have the right to a list of certain disclosures of your health information. The accounting will not include: (1) disclosures made for purposes of treatment, payment or health care operations; (2) disclosures made to you; (3) disclosures made pursuant to your authorization; (4) disclosures made to friends or family in your presence or because of an emergency; (5) disclosure for national security purpose; and (6) disclosures incident to other permissible disclosures. You may receive information about disclosures of your health information going back for six (6) years from the date of your request. You may make one (1) request in any 12-month period at no cost to you, but the Plan may charge a fee for subsequent requests. You will be notified of the fee in advance and have the opportunity to change or revoke your request.

Right To Access Electronic Records

You may request access to electronic copies of your PHI, or you may request in writing or electronically that another person receive an electronic copy of these records. The electronic PHI will be provided in a mutually agreed-upon format, and you may be charged for the cost of any electronic media (such as a USB flash drive) used to provide a copy of the electronic PHI.

Right to Breach Notification

If a breach of your unsecured Protected Health Information occurs, the Plan will notify you.

How To Exercise Your Rights In This Notice

To exercise your rights listed in this notice or if you have questions, you should contact the **HIPAA Privacy Officer**, c/o the City of Chandler, 175 S Arizona Ave, Human Resources, Chandler AZ 85225.

Complaints

If you believe that your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a written complaint with the HIPAA Privacy Officer, c/o the City of Chandler, 55 N. Arizona Place, Suite 207, Chandler AZ 85225. You may also file a complaint with the regional Office for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Information on how to file a complaint is available on the Department of Health and Human Services website at www.hhs.gov/oct/hipaa/. **You will not be retaliated against for filing a complaint.**

Important Notice from the City of Chandler about Prescription Drug Coverage for People with Medicare

This notice is for people with 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 the City of Chandler and the prescription drug coverage available for people with Medicare. It also explains the options you have under Medicare's prescription drug coverage and can help you decide whether or not you want to enroll in that Medicare prescription drug coverage. At the end of this notice is information on where you can get help to make a decision about Medicare's prescription drug coverage.

- **If you and/or your family members are not now eligible for Medicare, and will not be eligible during the next 12 months, you may disregard this Notice.**
- **If, however, you and/or your family members are now eligible for Medicare or may become eligible for Medicare in the next 12 months, you should read this Notice very carefully.**

This announcement is required by law whether the group health plan's coverage is primary or secondary to Medicare. Because it is not possible for our Plan to always know when a Plan participant or their eligible spouse or children have Medicare coverage or will soon become eligible for Medicare we have decided to provide this Notice to all plan participants.

Prescription drug coverage for Medicare-eligible people is available through Medicare prescription drug plans (PDPs) and Medicare Advantage Plans (like an HMO or PPO) that offer prescription drug coverage. All Medicare prescription drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more drug coverage for a higher monthly premium.

The City of **Chandler has determined that the prescription drug coverage is "creditable" under the following medical plan options (the Medical PPO Plan (called the Red Plan), the Medical PPO Plan (called the Blue Plan) and the HDHP Plan with HSA (called the White Plan).**

"Creditable" means that the value of this Plan's prescription drug benefit is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as or more than the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay.

Because the plan options noted above are, on average, at least as good as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage, **you can elect or keep prescription drug coverage under the Medical PPO Plan (called the Red Plan), the Medical PPO Plan (called the Blue Plan) and the HDHP Plan with HSA (called the White Plan) and you will not pay extra if you later decide to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage.** You may enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage at a later time, and because you maintain creditable coverage, you will not have to pay a higher premium (a late enrollment fee penalty).

REMEMBER TO KEEP THIS 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).

When Can You Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

Medicare-eligible people can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan at one of the following 3 times:

- ▯ when they first become eligible for Medicare; or
- during Medicare's annual election period (from October 15th through December 7th); or
- ▯ for beneficiaries leaving employer/union coverage, you may be eligible for a two-month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) in which to sign up for a Medicare prescription drug plan.

When you make your decision whether to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan, you should also compare your current prescription drug coverage, (including which drugs are covered and at what cost) with the coverage and cost of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area.

Your Right To Receive A Notice

You will receive this notice at least every 12 months and at other times in the future such as if the creditable/non-creditable status of the prescription drug coverage through this plan changes. You may also request a copy of a Notice at any time.

Why Creditable Coverage Is Important (When you will pay a higher premium (penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan)

If you do not have creditable prescription drug coverage when you are first eligible to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and you elect or continue prescription drug coverage under a **non-creditable** prescription drug plan, then at a later date when you decide to elect Medicare prescription drug coverage you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) for that Medicare prescription drug coverage for as long as you have that Medicare coverage.

Maintaining creditable prescription drug coverage will help you avoid Medicare's late enrollment penalty. This **late enrollment penalty** is described below:

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage (meaning drug coverage that is at least as good as Medicare's 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 either Medicare prescription drug coverage or coverage under a creditable prescription drug plan. You may have to pay this higher premium (the penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage.

For example, if 19 months pass where you do not have creditable prescription drug coverage, when you decide to join Medicare's drug coverage your monthly premium will always be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. Additionally, if you go 63 days or longer without prescription drug coverage you may also have to wait until the next October to enroll for Medicare prescription drug coverage.

What Are Your Choices?

You can choose any **one** of the following options:

Your Choices:	What you can do:	What this option means to you:
Option 1	<p>You can select or keep your current medical and prescription drug coverage with the Medical PPO Plan (called the Red Plan), the Medical PPO Plan (called the Blue Plan) and the HDHP Plan with HSA (called the White Plan) and you do not have to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan.</p>	<p>You will continue to be able to use your prescription drug benefits through the Medical PPO Plan (called the Red Plan), the Medical PPO Plan (called the Blue Plan) and the HDHP Plan with HSA (called the White Plan).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may, in the future, enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan during Medicare's annual enrollment period (during October 15th through December 7th of each year). • As long as you are enrolled in creditable drug coverage you will not have to pay a higher premium (a late enrollment fee) to Medicare when you do choose, at a later date, to sign up for a Medicare prescription drug plan.
Option 2	<p>You can select or keep your current medical and prescription drug coverage with the Medical PPO Plan (called the Red Plan), the Medical PPO Plan (called the Blue Plan) and the HDHP Plan with HSA (called the White Plan) and also enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan.</p> <p>If you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan you will need to pay the Medicare Part D premium out of your own pocket.</p>	<p>Your current coverage pays for other health expenses in addition to prescription drugs.</p> <p>If you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan, you and your eligible dependents will still be eligible to receive all of your current health and prescription drug benefits. Having dual prescription drug coverage under this Plan and Medicare means that this Plan will coordinate its drug payments with Medicare, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for Medicare eligible Retirees and their Medicare eligible Dependents, Medicare Part D coverage pays primary and the group health plan pays secondary. • for Medicare eligible Active Employees and their Medicare eligible Dependents, the group health plan pays primary and Medicare Part D coverage pays secondary. <p>Note that you may not drop just the prescription drug coverage. That is because prescription drug coverage is part of the entire medical plan. Generally, you may only drop medical plan coverage at this Plan's next Open Enrollment period.</p> <p>Note that each Medicare prescription drug plan (PDP) may differ. Compare coverage, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDPs may have different premium amounts; • PDPs cover different brand name drugs at different costs to you; • PDPs may have different prescription drug deductibles and different drug copayments; • PDPs may have different networks for retail pharmacies and mail order services.
<p><u>IMPORTANT NOTE:</u></p> <p>If you are enrolled in the High Deductible Health (HDHP) Plan with the Health Savings Account (HSA) you and your employer may not continue to make contributions to your HSA once you are enrolled in Medicare including being enrolled in a Medicare Part D drug plan.</p>		

For More Information About Your Options Under Medicare’s Prescription Drug Coverage

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is available in the “Medicare & You” handbook. A person enrolled in Medicare (a “beneficiary”) will get a copy of this handbook in the mail each year from Medicare. A Medicare beneficiary may also be contacted directly by Medicare-approved prescription drug plans.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

- ▯ Visit www.medicare.gov
- ▯ Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see 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.

Para más información sobre sus opciones bajo la cobertura de Medicare para recetas médicas.

Revise el manual “Medicare Y Usted” para información más detallada sobre los planes de Medicare que ofrecen cobertura para recetas médicas. Visite www.medicare.gov por el Internet o llame GRATIS al **1 800 MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**. Los usuarios con teléfono de texto (TTY) deben llamar al **1-877-486-2048**. Para más información sobre la ayuda adicional, visite la SSA en línea en www.socialsecurity.gov por Internet, o llámeles al **1-800-772-1213** (Los usuarios con teléfono de texto (TTY) deberán llamar al **1-800-325-0778**).

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 them at **1-800-772-1213** (TTY **1-800-325-0778**).

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

City of Chandler Human Resources Department

175 S. Arizona Avenue

Chandler, AZ 85225

Phone: **480-782-2350**

As in all cases, the City of Chandler reserves the right to modify benefits at any time, in accordance with applicable law.

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 below, contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office to find out if premium assistance is available.

If you or your dependents are NOT currently enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, and you think you or any of your dependents might be eligible for either of these programs, contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office or dial **1-877-KIDS NOW** or www.insurekidsnow.gov 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. The following list of states is current as of July 31, 2024. Contact your State for more information on eligibility -

ALABAMA – Medicaid	ALASKA – Medicaid
Website: http://myalhipp.com/ Phone: 1-855-692-5447	The AK Health Insurance Premium Payment Program Website: http://myakhipp.com/ Phone: 1-866-251-4861 Email: CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com Medicaid Eligibility: https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/default.aspx
ARKANSAS – Medicaid	CALIFORNIA – Medicaid
Website: http://myarhhip.com/ Phone: 1-855-MyARHIPP (855-692-7447)	Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program Website: http://dhcs.ca.gov/hipp Phone: 916-445-8322 Fax: 916-440-5676 Email: hipp@dhcs.ca.gov

<p>COLORADO – Health First Colorado (Colorado’s Medicaid Program) & Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+)</p>	<p>FLORIDA – Medicaid</p>
<p>Health First Colorado Website: https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/ Health First Colorado Member Contact Center: 1-800-221-3943/State Relay 711 CHP+: https://hcpf.colorado.gov/child-health-plan-plus CHP+ Customer Service: 1-800-359-1991/State Relay 711 Health Insurance Buy-In Program (HIBI): https://www.mycohibi.com/ HIBI Customer Service: 1-855-692-6442</p>	<p>Website: https://www.flmedicaidtprecovery.com/flmedicaidtprecovery.com/hipp/index.html Phone: 1-877-357-3268</p>
<p>GEORGIA – Medicaid</p>	<p>INDIANA – Medicaid</p>
<p>GA HIPP Website: https://medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp Phone: 678-564-1162, Press 1 GA CHIPRA Website: https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/childrens-health-insurance-program-reauthorization-act-2009-chipra Phone: 678-564-1162, Press 2</p>	<p>Health Insurance Premium Payment Program All other Medicaid Website: https://www.in.gov/medicaid/ http://www.in.gov/fssa/df/ Family and Social Services Administration Phone: 1-800-403-0864 Member Services Phone: 1-800-457-4584</p>
<p>IOWA – Medicaid and CHIP (Hawki)</p>	<p>KANSAS – Medicaid</p>
<p>Medicaid Website: Iowa Medicaid Health & Human Services Medicaid Phone: 1-800-338-8366 Hawki Website: Hawki - Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa Health & Human Services Hawki Phone: 1-800-257-8563 HIPP Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Health & Human Services (iowa.gov) HIPP Phone: 1-888-346-9562</p>	<p>Website: https://www.kancare.ks.gov/ Phone: 1-800-792-4884 HIPP Phone: 1-800-967-4660</p>
<p>KENTUCKY – Medicaid</p>	<p>LOUISIANA – Medicaid</p>
<p>Kentucky Integrated Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (KI-HIPP) Website: https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.aspx Phone: 1-855-459-6328 Email: KIHIPP.PROGRAM@ky.gov KCHIP Website: https://kynect.ky.gov Phone: 1-877-524-4718 Kentucky Medicaid Website: https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms</p>	<p>Website: www.medicaid.la.gov or www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp Phone: 1-888-342-6207 (Medicaid hotline) or 1-855-618-5488 (LaHIPP)</p>

MAINE – Medicaid	MASSACHUSETTS – Medicaid and CHIP
<p>Enrollment Website: https://www.mymaineconnection.gov/benefits/s/?language=en_US Phone: 1-800-442-6003 TTY: Maine relay 711 Private Health Insurance Premium Webpage: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms Phone: 1-800-977-6740 TTY: Maine relay 711</p>	<p>Website: https://www.mass.gov/masshealth/pa Phone: 1-800-862-4840 TTY: 711 Email: masspremassistance@accenture.com</p>
MINNESOTA – Medicaid	MISSOURI – Medicaid
<p>Website: https://mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage/ Phone: 1-800-657-3672</p>	<p>Website: http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm Phone: 573-751-2005</p>
MONTANA – Medicaid	NEBRASKA – Medicaid
<p>Website: http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP Phone: 1-800-694-3084 Email: HSHIPPProgram@mt.gov</p>	<p>Website: http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov Phone: 1-855-632-7633 Lincoln: 402-473-7000 Omaha: 402-595-1178</p>
NEVADA – Medicaid	NEW HAMPSHIRE – Medicaid
<p>Medicaid Website: http://dhcfp.nv.gov Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900</p>	<p>Website: https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program Phone: 603-271-5218 Toll free number for the HIPP program: 1-800-852-3345, ext. 15218 Email: DHHS.ThirdPartyLiabi@dhhs.nh.gov</p>
NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP	NEW YORK – Medicaid
<p>Medicaid Website: http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/ Phone: 1-800-356-1561 CHIP Premium Assistance Phone: 609-631-2392 CHIP Website: http://www.njfamilycare.org/index.html CHIP Phone: 1-800-701-0710 (TTY: 711)</p>	<p>Website: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/ Phone: 1-800-541-2831</p>
NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid	NORTH DAKOTA – Medicaid
<p>Website: https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/ Phone: 919-855-4100</p>	<p>Website: https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare Phone: 1-844-854-4825</p>
OKLAHOMA – Medicaid and CHIP	OREGON – Medicaid and CHIP

Website: http://www.insureoklahoma.org Phone: 1-888-365-3742	Website: http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx Phone: 1-800-699-9075
PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid and CHIP	RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid and CHIP
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)	Website: http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/ Phone: 1-855-697-4347, or 401-462-0311 (Direct RIte Share Line)
SOUTH CAROLINA – Medicaid	SOUTH DAKOTA - Medicaid
Website: https://www.scdhhs.gov Phone: 1-888-549-0820	Website: http://dss.sd.gov Phone: 1-888-828-0059
TEXAS – Medicaid	UTAH – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program Texas Health and Human Services Phone: 1-800-440-0493	Utah's Premium Partnership for Health Insurance (UPP) Website: https://medicaid.utah.gov/upp/ Email: upp@utah.gov Phone: 1-888-222-2542 Adult Expansion Website: https://medicaid.utah.gov/expansion/ Utah Medicaid Buyout Program Website: https://medicaid.utah.gov/buyout-program/ CHIP Website: https://chip.utah.gov/
VERMONT– Medicaid	VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program Department of Vermont Health Access Phone: 1-800-250-8427	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
WASHINGTON – Medicaid	WEST VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: https://www.hca.wa.gov/ Phone: 1-800-562-3022	Website: https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/ http://mywvhipp.com/ Medicaid Phone: 304-558-1700 CHIP Toll-free phone: 1-855-MyWVHIPP (1-855-699-8447)
WISCONSIN – Medicaid and CHIP	WYOMING – Medicaid

Website: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm Phone: 1-800-362-3002	Website: https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/program-s-and-eligibility/ Phone: 1-800-251-1269
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To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since July 31, 2024, or for more information on special enrollment rights, contact either:

U.S. Department of Labor
 Services

Employee Benefits Security Administration
www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa
 1-866-444-EBSA (3272)

U.S. Department of Health and Human

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
www.cms.hhs.gov
 1-877-267-2323, Menu Option 4, Ext. 61565

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) (PRA), no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The Department notes that a Federal agency cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it is approved by OMB under the PRA, and displays a currently valid OMB control number, and the public is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3507. Also, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if the collection of information does not display a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3512.

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average approximately seven minutes per respondent. Interested parties are encouraged to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Office of Policy and Research, Attention: PRA Clearance Officer, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room N-5718, Washington, DC 20210 or email ebsa.opr@dol.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1210-0137.

OMB Control Number 1210-0137 (expires 1/31/2026)