

Attachment A

COBRA Continuation of Coverage (COC) Rights under COBRA

Introduction

You're getting this notice because you have recently gained coverage under a group health plan (the Plan). This notice contains important information about your right to COBRA Continuation of Coverage (COC), which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. **This notice explains COBRA Continuation of Coverage, when it may become available to you and your family and what you need to do to protect the right to receive it.** When you become eligible for COBRA Continuation of Coverage, you may also become eligible for other coverage options that may cost less than COBRA Continuation of Coverage.

The right to COBRA Continuation of Coverage was created by a federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). COBRA Continuation of Coverage can become available to you and other members of your family when your group health coverage would otherwise end. For more information about your rights and obligations under the Plan and under federal law, you should review the Plan booklet or contact TML MultiState IEBP, 1821 Rutherford Lane, Suite 300, Austin, Texas 78754 or by telephone (800) 282-5385.

You may have other options available to you when you lose group health coverage

For example, you may be eligible to buy an individual plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace. By enrolling in coverage through the Marketplace, you may qualify for lower costs on your monthly premiums and lower out of pocket costs. Additionally, you may qualify for a 30-day special enrollment period for another group health plan for which you are eligible (such as a spouse's plan), even if that plan generally doesn't accept late enrollees.

What is COBRA Continuation of Coverage?

COBRA Continuation of Coverage is a continuation of Plan coverage when it would otherwise end because of a life event. This is also called a "qualifying event." Specific qualifying events are listed later in this notice. After a qualifying event, COBRA Continuation of Coverage must be offered to each person who is a "qualified beneficiary." You, your spouse and your dependent children could become qualified beneficiaries if coverage under the Plan is lost because of the qualifying event. Under the Plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA Continuation of Coverage may be required to pay for coverage depending on the policy of your employer.

If you're an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of either one of the following qualifying events:

1. Your hours of employment are reduced; or
2. Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

If you're the spouse of the employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of any of the following qualifying events:

1. Your spouse dies;
2. Your spouse's hours of employment are reduced;
3. Your spouse's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
4. Your spouse becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B and/or Part C); or
5. You become divorced or legally separated from your spouse.

Your dependent children will become qualified beneficiaries if they lose coverage under the Plan because of any of the following qualifying events:

1. The parent-employee dies;
2. The parent-employee's hours of employment are reduced;
3. The parent-employee's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
4. The parent-employee becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (Part A, Part B and/or Part C);
5. The parents become divorced or legally separated; or

6. The child stops being eligible for coverage under the Plan as a “dependent child.”The parents become divorced or legally separated; or
7. The child stops being eligible for coverage under the Plan as a “dependent child.”

Any decision of whether an Employee was terminated because of gross misconduct will be made by the Employer. The employer may not change its decision of whether or not a termination was for gross misconduct more than the forty-fifth (45th) day after the date employment terminated or the date a COBRA Continuation of Coverage election notice was mailed to the employee, whichever is earlier. Any determination of gross misconduct shall be based on events prior to the termination.

Sometimes, filing a proceeding in bankruptcy under Title 11 of the United States Code can be a qualifying event. If a proceeding in bankruptcy is filed with respect to your employer, and that bankruptcy results in the loss of coverage for any retired employee covered under the Plan, the retired employee will become a qualified beneficiary. The retired employee’s spouse, surviving spouse and dependent children will also become qualified beneficiaries if bankruptcy results in the loss of their coverage under the Plan.

Please note that COBRA Continuation of Coverage does not include any life benefits. If you had voluntary life coverage, you may convert it to an individual policy within thirty-one (31) days of your qualifying event. Contact your employer’s human resources office for more information and conversion forms.

When is COBRA Continuation of Coverage available?

The Plan will offer COBRA Continuation of Coverage to qualified beneficiaries only after IEBP has been notified that a qualifying event has occurred. The employer must notify IEBP of the following qualifying events:

1. The end of employment or reduction of hours of employment;
2. Death of the employee;
3. Commencement of a proceeding in bankruptcy with respect to the employer; or
4. The employee’s becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B and/pr Part C).

You must give notice of some Qualifying Events

For all other qualifying events (divorce or legal separation of the employee and spouse or a dependent child’s losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), you must notify IEBP within 60 days after the qualifying event occurs. You must provide notice to: TML MultiState IEBP, 1821 Rutherford Lane, Suite 300, Austin, Texas 78754 or by telephone (800) 282-5385.

How is COBRA Continuation of Coverage provided?

Once IEBP receives notice that a qualifying event has occurred, COBRA Continuation of Coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. Each qualified beneficiary will have an independent right to elect COBRA Continuation of Coverage. Covered employees may elect COBRA Continuation of Coverage on behalf of their spouses, and parents may elect COBRA Continuation of Coverage on behalf of their children.

COBRA Continuation of Coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage. When the qualifying event is the death of the employee, the employee’s becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (Part A, Part B and/or Part C), your divorce or legal separation or a dependent child’s losing eligibility as a dependent child, COBRA Continuation of Coverage lasts for up to a total of thirty-six (36) months. When the qualifying event is the end of the employment or reduction of the employee’s hours of employment, and the employee became entitled to Medicare benefits less than eighteen (18) months before the qualifying event, COBRA Continuation of Coverage for qualified beneficiaries other than the employee lasts until thirty-six (36) months after the date of Medicare entitlement. For example, if a covered employee becomes entitled to Medicare eight (8) months before the date on which his employment terminates, COBRA Continuation of Coverage for his spouse and children can last up to thirty-six (36) months after the date of Medicare entitlement, which is equal to twenty-eight (28) months after the date of the qualifying event (thirty-six (36) months minus eight (8) months). Otherwise, when the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee’s hours of employment, COBRA Continuation of Coverage generally lasts for only up to a total of eighteen (18) months. There are three (3) ways in which this eighteen (18) month period of COBRA Continuation of Coverage can be extended.

Active Duty Reservists

If covered by the plan as an employee at the time of call to active duty, active duty reservists or guard members and their covered dependents can maintain eligibility on the Plan for up to twenty-four (24) months as prescribed by and subject to the terms and conditions of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). The date on which the person's absence begins is the qualifying event for COBRA Continuation of Coverage (COC) to be offered to the reservist or guard member.

If a fire fighter or police officer is called to active duty for any period, the employer must continue to maintain any health, dental, or life coverage received on the date the fire fighter or police officer was called to active military duty until the employer receives written instructions from the fire fighter or police officer to change or discontinue the coverage. Such instruction shall be provided no later than sixty (60) days following the Qualifying Event. If no such instruction is given, then coverage will terminate on the sixty-first (61st) day, which shall then become the Qualifying Event for COBRA Continuation of Coverage purposes. Eligibility will meet or exceed requirements of USERRA and/or regulatory compliance.

In administering this coverage, IEBP will follow the time guidelines of COBRA Continuation of Coverage under 42 U.S.C.A.300bb-1 *et seq.* To qualify for this coverage, the employee must give written notice to the employer within sixty (60) days of the qualifying event. The employer member must notify IEBP that an employee has been called to active duty and submit a copy of the employer member's active reservist policy to IEBP .

Disability extension of COBRA Continuation of Coverage

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by Social Security to be disabled and you notify IEBP within sixty (60) days of that determination, you and your entire family may be entitled to receive up to an additional eleven (11) months of COBRA Continuation of Coverage for a total maximum of twenty-nine (29) months. The disability must start at some time before the sixtieth (60th) day of COBRA Continuation of Coverage and must last at least until the end of the eighteen (18) or twenty-four (24) month period of COBRA Continuation of Coverage. You may contact TML MultiState IEBP about a disability determination at 1820 Rutherford Lane, Suite #300, Austin, Texas 78754 or by telephone (800) 282-5385.

Second Qualifying Event extension of COBRA Continuation of Coverage

If your family experiences another qualifying event while receiving eighteen (18) or twenty-four (24) months of COBRA Continuation of Coverage, the spouse and dependent children in your family can get up to eighteen (18) additional months of COBRA Continuation of Coverage, for a maximum of thirty-six (36) months, if IEBP is properly notified about the second qualifying event. This extension may be available to the spouse and any dependent children getting COBRA Continuation of Coverage if the employee or former employee dies, becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (Part A, Part B and/or Part C) gets divorced or legally separated, or if the dependent child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child. This extension is available only if the second qualifying event would have caused the spouse or dependent child to lose coverage under the Plan had the first qualifying event not occurred.

Are there other coverage options besides COBRA Continuation of Coverage?

Yes. Instead of enrolling in COBRA Continuation of Coverage, there may be other coverage options for you and your family through the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicaid or other group health plan coverage options (such as a spouse's plan) through what is called a "special enrollment period." Some of these options may cost less than COBRA Continuation of Coverage. You can learn more about many of these options at www.healthcare.gov.

Adding Dependents

If you are a COBRA Continuation of Coverage participant, you have the same rights to add dependents to your COBRA Continuation of Coverage as an active covered employee. For example, you may add dependents to your COBRA Continuation of Coverage within thirty-one (31) days of marriage or sixty (60) days of the birth, adoption or placement for adoption of a child. Also, you may add dependents to your COBRA Continuation of Coverage during your employer's open enrollment. However, these dependents who were not covered under the Plan before your qualifying event occurred are not qualified beneficiaries and do not have individual COBRA Continuation of Coverage rights, except for children added within sixty (60) days of birth, adoption or placement for adoption.

Children added to your COBRA Continuation of Coverage within sixty (60) days of birth, adoption or placement for adoption are qualified beneficiaries and have their own COBRA Continuation of Coverage rights.

If you have questions

Questions concerning your Plan or your COBRA Continuation of Coverage rights should be addressed to the contact or contacts identified below. State and local government employees seeking more information about their rights under COBRA Continuation of Coverage, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and other laws affecting group health plans, can contact the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services at:

- [http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Other-Insurance-Protections/cobra fact sheet.html](http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Other-Insurance-Protections/cobra%20fact%20sheet.html); or
- http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Other-Insurance-Protections/cobra_qna.html

Keep Your Plan Informed of Address Changes

In order to protect your family's rights, you should keep TML MultiState IEBP informed of any changes in addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to your employer and TML MultiState IEBP.

Resource	Contact Information	Accessible Hours
TML MultiState Intergovernmental Employee Benefits Pool 1821 Rutherford Lane, Suite 300 Austin, Texas 78754		
Customer Care Helpline:	(800) 282-5385	8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Central
Secured Customer Care E-mail:	Visit www.tmlmultistateiebp.org click on the "Login" button click on "Online Customer Care" under the "My Tools" menu	8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Central
TML MultiState IEBP Internet Website:	www.tmlmultistateiebp.org	Twenty-four (24) hours
Medical Notifications:	(800) 847-1213	8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Central
Prescription Authorizations:	(888) 871-4002	
Professional Health Coaches:	(800) 818-2822	8:30 AM - 6:00 PM Central or Scheduled Appointment
Spanish Line:	(800) 385-9952	
Where to Mail Paper Medical Claims:	TML MultiState IEBP PO Box 149190 Austin, Texas 78714-9190	
Where to Mail Paper Prescription Claims:	Restat Patient Reimbursement 11900 W. Lake Park Drive Milwaukee, WI 53224	
Telemedicine:	1-800-Teladoc Teladoc.com	
After Hours and/or Weekend Medical and Mental Healthcare Emergencies:	Call 911 or immediately go to the emergency department.	