

# IMPORTANT HEALTH CARE REFORM NOTICES PLEASE READ

## GRANDFATHERED HEALTH PLAN

**Excel** believes this medical plan is a “grandfathered health plan” under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (the Affordable Care Act). As permitted by the Affordable Care Act, a grandfathered health plan can preserve certain basic health Coverage that was already in effect when that law was enacted. Being a grandfathered health plan means that your plan may not include certain consumer protections of the Affordable Care Act that apply to other plans, for example, the requirement for the provision of preventive health services without any cost sharing. However, grandfathered health plans must comply with certain other consumer protections in the Affordable Care Act, for example, the elimination of lifetime limits on benefits.

Questions regarding which protections apply and which protections do not apply to a grandfathered health plan and what might cause a plan to change from grandfathered health plan status can be directed to the plan administrator at **Excel Industrial Services** at 225-408-3625. You may also contact the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor at 1-866-444-3272 or [www.dol.gov/ebsa/healthreform](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/healthreform). This Web site has a table summarizing which protections do and do not apply to grandfathered health plans.

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Questions regarding which protections apply and which protections do not apply to a grandfathered health plan and what might cause a plan to change from grandfathered health plan status can be directed to the plan administrator at Excel Industrial Services at 225-408-3627. You may also contact the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor at 1-866-444-3272 or [www.dol.gov/ebsa/healthreform](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/healthreform). This Web site has a table summarizing which protections do and do not apply to grandfathered health plans.

## LIFETIME LIMIT NO LONGER APPLIES

The lifetime limit on the dollar value of benefits under the medical plan no longer applies with respect to “essential health benefits,” as defined under the Affordable Care Act.

**NOTICE ABOUT SPECIAL ENROLLMENT RIGHTS AND PREEXISTING CONDITION EXCLUSIONS A federal law called the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires that we provide you this notice explaining your group health plan procedures for your special enrollment rights and imposing preexisting condition exclusion.**

- **Your Special Enrollment Rights-** If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance coverage, you may in the future be able to enroll yourself or your dependents in this plan, provided that you request enrollment within 31 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 dependents, provided that you request enrollment within 31 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.
- **Effective 2014** there are no pre-existing exclusions conditions.

## MEDICAID AND THE CHILDREN’S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (CHIP) OFFER FREE OR LOW-COST HEALTH COVERAGE TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

If you are eligible for health coverage from your employer, but are unable to afford the premiums, some States have premium assistance programs that can help pay for coverage. These States use funds from their Medicaid or CHIP programs to help people who are eligible for employer-sponsored health coverage, but need assistance in paying their health premiums.

If you or your dependents are already enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, you can contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office to find out if premium assistance is available.

If you or your dependents are NOT currently enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, and you think you or any of your dependents might be eligible for either of these programs, you can contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office or dial **1-877-KIDS NOW** or **[www.insurekidsnow.gov](http://www.insurekidsnow.gov)** to find out how to apply. For Louisiana, go to <http://bhsfweb.dhh.louisiana.gov/LaCHIP> or call 1-877-252-2447. If you qualify, you can ask the State if it has a program that might help you pay the premiums for an employer-sponsored plan.

Once it is determined that you or your dependents are eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or CHIP, your employer’s health plan is required to permit you and your dependents to enroll in the plan – as long as you and your dependents are eligible, but not already enrolled in the employer’s plan. This is called a “special enrollment” opportunity, and **you must request coverage within 60 days of being determined eligible for premium assistance.**

## WOMEN’S HEALTH AND CANCER RIGHTS ACT

If you have had or are going to have a mastectomy, you may be entitled to certain benefits under the Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA). For individual 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, coinsurance, and co-payments (if any) applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under this plan. Information on the plans specific deductible, coinsurance, or co-payment amounts is found in the Schedule of Benefits document that is issued with your health benefit booklet.