

# Town of Darien

## HEALTH PLAN NOTICES

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### IMPORTANT NOTICE

**This packet of notices related to our health care plan includes a notice regarding how the plan's prescription drug coverage compares to Medicare Part D. If you or a covered family member is also enrolled in Medicare Parts A or B, but not Part D, you should read the Medicare Part D notice carefully. It is titled, "Important Notice From the Town of Darien About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare."**

## MEDICARE PART D CREDITABLE COVERAGE NOTICE

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE TOWN OF DARIEN ABOUT YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE AND MEDICARE**

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with the Town of Darien and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether you want to join a Medicare drug plan. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.

If neither you nor any of your covered dependents are eligible for or have Medicare, this notice does not apply to you or your dependents, as the case may be. However, you should still keep a copy of this notice in the event you or a dependent should qualify for coverage under Medicare in the future. Please note, however, that later notices might supersede this notice.

1. Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or join a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO) that offers prescription drug coverage. All Medicare drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.
2. The Town of Darien has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Town of Darien Employee Health Care Plan ("Plan") is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is considered "creditable" prescription drug coverage. This is important for the reasons described below.

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Because your existing coverage is, on average, at least as good as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to enroll in a Medicare drug plan, as long as you later enroll within specific time periods.

#### **Enrolling in Medicare—General Rules**

As some background, you can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare. If you qualify for Medicare due to age, you may enroll in a Medicare drug plan during a seven-month initial enrollment period. That period begins three months prior to your 65th birthday, includes the month you turn 65, and continues for the ensuing three months. If you qualify for Medicare due to disability or end-stage renal disease, your initial Medicare Part D enrollment period depends on the date your disability or treatment began. For more information you should contact Medicare at the telephone number or web address listed below.

#### **Late Enrollment and the Late Enrollment Penalty**

If you decide to *wait* to enroll in a Medicare drug plan you may enroll later, during Medicare Part D's annual enrollment period, which runs each year from October 15 through December 7. But as a general rule, if you delay your enrollment in Medicare Part D, after first becoming eligible to enroll, you may have to pay a higher premium (a penalty).

If after your initial Medicare Part D enrollment period you go **63 continuous days or longer without "creditable" prescription drug coverage** (that is, prescription drug coverage that's at least as good as Medicare's prescription drug coverage), your monthly Part D premium may go up by at least 1 percent of the premium you would have paid had you enrolled timely, for every month that you did not have creditable coverage.

For example, if after your Medicare Part D initial enrollment period you go 19 months without coverage, your premium may be at least 19% higher than the premium you otherwise would have paid. You may have to pay this higher premium for as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. *However, there are some important exceptions to the late enrollment penalty.*

### **Special Enrollment Period Exceptions to the Late Enrollment Penalty**

There are “special enrollment periods” that allow you to add Medicare Part D coverage months or even years after you first became eligible to do so, without a penalty. For example, if after your Medicare Part D initial enrollment period you lose or decide to leave employer-sponsored or union-sponsored health coverage that includes “creditable” prescription drug coverage, you will be eligible to join a Medicare drug plan at that time.

In addition, if you otherwise lose other creditable prescription drug coverage (such as under an individual policy) through no fault of your own, you will be able to join a Medicare drug plan, again without penalty. These special enrollment periods end two months after the month in which your other coverage ends.

### **Compare Coverage**

You should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered at what cost, with the coverage and costs of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. See the Town of Darien Plan’s summary plan description for a summary of the Plan’s prescription drug coverage. If you don’t have a copy, you can get one by contacting us at the telephone number or address listed below.

### **Coordinating Other Coverage With Medicare Part D**

Generally speaking, if you decide to join a Medicare drug plan while covered under the Town of Darien Plan due to your employment (or someone else’s employment, such as a spouse or parent), your coverage under the Town of Darien Plan will not be affected. For most persons covered under the Plan, the Plan will pay prescription drug benefits first, and Medicare will determine its payments second. For more information about this issue of what program pays first and what program pays second, see the Plan’s summary plan description or contact Medicare at the telephone number or web address listed below.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your Town of Darien prescription drug coverage, be aware that you and your dependents may not be able to get this coverage back. To regain coverage, you would have to re-enroll in the Plan, pursuant to the Plan’s eligibility and enrollment rules. You should review the Plan’s summary plan description to determine if and when you are allowed to add coverage.

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

Contact the person listed below for further information or call 860-687-2000 ext. 1233. **NOTE:** You’ll get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this coverage through Town of Darien changes. You also may request a copy.

### **For More Information About Your Options Under Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage...**

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is in the “Medicare & You” handbook. You’ll get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare drug plans.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

- Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of your copy of the “Medicare & You” handbook for their telephone number) for personalized help,
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

**Remember: Keep this Creditable Coverage notice. If you decide to join one of the Medicare drug plans, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show whether or not you have maintained creditable coverage and whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).**

Date: August 17, 2023  
Name of Entity/Sender: Karen Dunn  
Contact—Position/Office: Human Resources Generalist  
Address: 2 Renshaw Road  
Darien, CT 06820  
Phone Number: 203-656-7338

**Nothing in this notice gives you or your dependents a right to coverage under the Plan. Your (or your dependents') right to coverage under the Plan is determined solely under the terms of the Plan.**

## NOTICE OF SPECIAL ENROLLMENT RIGHTS

### TOWN OF DARIEN EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE PLAN

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 later enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage (or if the employer stops contributing toward your or your dependents' other coverage).

Loss of eligibility includes but is not limited to:

- Loss of eligibility for coverage as a result of ceasing to meet the plan's eligibility requirements (e.g., divorce, cessation of dependent status, death of an employee, termination of employment, reduction in the number of hours of employment);
- Loss of HMO coverage because the person no longer resides or works in the HMO service area and no other coverage option is available through the HMO plan sponsor;
- Elimination of the coverage option a person was enrolled in, and another option is not offered in its place;
- Failing to return from an FMLA leave of absence; and
- Loss of eligibility under Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Unless the event giving rise to your special enrollment right is a loss of eligibility under Medicaid or CHIP, you must request enrollment within *30 days* after your or your dependent's(s') other coverage ends (or after the employer that sponsors that coverage stops contributing toward the coverage).

If the event giving rise to your special enrollment right is a loss of coverage under Medicaid or CHIP, you may request enrollment under this plan within *60 days* of the date you or your dependent(s) lose such coverage under Medicaid or CHIP. Similarly, if you or your dependent(s) become eligible for a state-granted premium subsidy toward this plan, you may request enrollment under this plan within *60 days* after the date Medicaid or CHIP determine that you or the dependent(s) qualify for the subsidy.

In addition, if you have a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents. However, you must request enrollment within *30 days* after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact:

Karen Dunn  
Human Resource Generalist  
(203)656-7338

***\* This notice is relevant for healthcare coverages subject to the HIPAA portability rules.***

# GENERAL COBRA NOTICE

## Introduction

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

The right to COBRA continuation coverage was created by a federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). COBRA continuation coverage can become available to you and other members of your family when 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's Summary Plan Description or contact the Plan Administrator.

**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 coverage?

COBRA continuation 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 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 coverage must pay for COBRA continuation coverage.

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

- Your hours of employment are reduced, or
- Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

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

- Your spouse dies;
- Your spouse's hours of employment are reduced;
- Your spouse's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- Your spouse becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); or
- 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 the following qualifying events:

- The parent-employee dies;
- The parent-employee's hours of employment are reduced;
- The parent-employee's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- The parent-employee becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (Part A, Part B, or both);
- The parents become divorced or legally separated; or
- The child stops being eligible for coverage under the Plan as a "dependent child."

*[If the Plan provides retiree health coverage, add the following paragraph:]*

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 the Town of Darien and that bankruptcy results in the loss of coverage of 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.

### **When is COBRA continuation coverage available?**

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

- The end of employment or reduction of hours of employment;
- Death of the employee;
- Commencement of a proceeding in bankruptcy with respect to the employer;]; or
- The employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both).

**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 the Plan Administrator within 60 days after the qualifying event occurs. You must provide this notice in writing to the Plan Administrator. Any notice you provide must state the name of the plan or plans under which you lost or are losing coverage, the name and address of the employee covered under the plan, the name(s) and address(es) of the qualified beneficiary(ies), and the qualifying event and the date it happened. The Plan Administrator will direct you to provide the appropriate documentation to show proof of the event.**

### **How is COBRA continuation coverage provided?**

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

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage that generally lasts for 18 months due to employment termination or reduction of hours of work. Certain qualifying events, or a second qualifying event during the initial period of coverage, may permit a beneficiary to receive a maximum of 36 months of coverage.

There are also ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended:

#### **Disability extension of 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage**

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by Social Security to be disabled and you notify the Plan Administrator in a timely fashion, you and your entire family may be entitled to get up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 29 months. The disability would have to have started at some time before the 60th day of COBRA continuation coverage and must last at least until the end of the 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage. If you believe you are eligible for this extension, contact the Plan Administrator.

#### **Second qualifying event extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage**

If your family experiences another qualifying event during the 18 months of COBRA continuation coverage, the spouse and dependent children in your family can get up to 18 additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 36 months, if the Plan is properly notified about the second qualifying event. This extension may be available to the spouse and any dependent children getting COBRA continuation coverage if the employee or former employee dies; becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); gets divorced or legally separated; or if the dependent child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child. This extension is only available 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 Coverage?**

Yes. Instead of enrolling in COBRA continuation coverage, there may be other coverage options for you and your family through the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicare, Medicaid, [Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#), 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 coverage. You can learn more about many of these options at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

**Can I enroll in Medicare instead of COBRA continuation coverage after my group health plan coverage ends?**

In general, if you don't enroll in Medicare Part A or B when you are first eligible because you are still employed, after the Medicare initial enrollment period, you have an 8-month special enrollment period<sup>1</sup> to sign up for Medicare Part A or B, beginning on the earlier of

- The month after your employment ends; or
- The month after group health plan coverage based on current employment ends.

If you don't enroll in Medicare and elect COBRA continuation coverage instead, you may have to pay a Part B late enrollment penalty and you may have a gap in coverage if you decide you want Part B later. If you elect COBRA continuation coverage and later enroll in Medicare Part A or B before the COBRA continuation coverage ends, the Plan may terminate your continuation coverage. However, if Medicare Part A or B is effective on or before the date of the COBRA election, COBRA coverage may not be discontinued on account of Medicare entitlement, even if you enroll in the other part of Medicare after the date of the election of COBRA coverage.

If you are enrolled in both COBRA continuation coverage and Medicare, Medicare will generally pay first (primary payer) and COBRA continuation coverage will pay second. Certain plans may pay as if secondary to Medicare, even if you are not enrolled in Medicare.

For more information visit <https://www.medicare.gov/medicare-and-you>.

### **If you have questions**

Questions concerning your Plan or your COBRA continuation coverage rights should be addressed to the contact or contacts identified below. For more information about your rights under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), including COBRA, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) in your area or visit [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa). (Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website.) For more information about the Marketplace, visit [www.HealthCare.gov](http://www.HealthCare.gov).

### **Keep your Plan informed of address changes**

To protect your family's rights, let the Plan Administrator know about any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator.

### **Plan contact information**

For additional information regarding your COBRA continuation coverage rights, please contact the Plan Administrator below:

Karen Dunn  
Human Resources Generalist  
2 Renshaw Road  
Darien, CT 06820  
203-656-7338

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.medicare.gov/sign-up-change-plans/how-do-i-get-parts-a-b/part-a-part-b-sign-up-periods>.



## **WOMEN'S HEALTH AND CANCER RIGHTS NOTICE**

Town of Darien Employee Health Care Plan is required by law to provide you with the following notice:

The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 ("WHCRA") provides certain protections 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 lymphedemas.

The Town of Darien's Employee Health Care Plan provide(s) medical coverage for mastectomies and the related procedures listed above, subject to the same deductibles and coinsurance applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under this plan. Therefore, the following deductibles and coinsurance apply:

HDHP	In-Network	Out-of-Network
Individual Deductible	\$2,000 or \$2,500	\$2,000 or \$2,500
Family Deductible	\$4,000 or \$5,000	\$4,000 or \$5,000
Coinsurance	0%	80%

If you would like more information on WHCRA benefits, please refer to your Summary Plan Description or contact your Plan Administrator at:

Karen Dunn  
Human Resources Generalist  
203-656-7338