

HIPAA Special Enrollment Rights

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 or your dependents in this plan if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage (or if the employer stops contributing towards your or your dependents' other coverage). However, you must request enrollment within 30 days after your or your dependents' other coverage ends (or after the employer stops contributing toward the other coverage).

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

A special enrollment opportunity may be available in the future if you or your dependents lose other coverage. This special enrollment opportunity will not be available when other coverage ends, however, unless you provide a written statement now explaining the reason that you are declining coverage for yourself or your dependent(s). Failing to accurately complete and return this form for each person for whom you are declining coverage will eliminate this special enrollment opportunity for the person(s) for whom a statement is not completed, even if other coverage is currently in effect and is later lost. In addition, unless you indicate in the statement that you are declining coverage because other coverage is in effect, you will not have this special enrollment opportunity for the person(s) covered by the statement. (See the paragraph above, however, regarding enrollment in the event of marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption.)

Effective April 1, 2009 special enrollment rights also exist in the following circumstances:

- If you or your dependents experience a loss of eligibility for Medicaid or your State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) coverage; or
- If you or your dependents become eligible for premium assistance under an optional state Medicaid or SCHIP program that would pay the employee's portion of the health insurance premium.

Note: In the two above listed circumstances only, you or your dependents will have sixty (60) days to request special enrollment in the group health plan coverage. An individual must request this special enrollment within sixty (60) days of the loss of coverage described at bullet one, and within sixty (60) days of when eligibility is determined as described at bullet two.

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, please contact the Office of Human Resources at 336-278-5560.