

COBRA Continuation Coverage *(only applies to groups of 20+ employees in preceding year)*

COBRA Continuation Coverage is a continuation of Plan coverage when coverage would otherwise end because of a life event known as a “qualifying event.” The following are qualifying events:

- Termination of your employment for any reason except gross misconduct. Coverage may continue for you and/or your eligible dependents;
- A reduction in your hours. Coverage may continue for you and/or your eligible dependents;
- Your death. Coverage may continue for your eligible dependents;
- Your divorce or legal separation. Coverage may continue for your eligible dependents;
- Your becoming entitled to Medicare. Coverage may continue for your eligible dependents; and
- Your covered dependent child’s ceasing to be a dependent child under the Plan. Coverage may continue for that dependent.
- If the Plan includes retiree coverage, Employer Bankruptcy is a qualifying event.

Note: To choose this continuation coverage, an individual must be covered under the Plan on the day before the qualifying event. In addition, your newborn child or child placed for adoption with you during a period of continuation coverage will remain eligible for continuation coverage for the remaining period of coverage even if you and/or your spouse terminate continuation coverage following the child’s birth or placement for adoption.

Notification Requirements

Under the law, you or the applicable dependent has the responsibility to inform the Plan Administrator, in writing, within 60 days of a divorce or legal separation or of a child losing dependent status under the Plan. Failure to provide this written notification within 60 days will result in the loss of continuation coverage rights.

Your Employer has the responsibility to notify the Plan Administrator of your death, termination of employment, reduction in hours, or entitlement to Medicare within 30 days of the qualifying event.

Subject to the Plan Administrator being informed in a timely manner of the qualifying events described in the above paragraphs, the Plan will promptly notify you and other qualifying individual(s) of their continuation coverage rights. You and any applicable dependents must elect continuation coverage within 60 days after Plan coverage would otherwise end, or, if later, within 60 days of the notice of continuation coverage rights. Failure to elect continuation coverage within this 60-day period will result in loss of continuation coverage rights.

Trade Act of 2002

If you qualify for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) as defined by the Trade Act of 2002, they you will be provided with an additional 60 day enrollment period, with continuation coverage beginning on the date of such TAA approval.

Notice of Unavailability of Continuation Coverage

If the Plan Administrator receives a notice of a qualifying event from you or your dependent and determines that the individual (you or your dependent) is not entitled to continuation coverage, the Plan Administrator will provide to the individual an explanation as to why the individual is not entitled to continuation coverage. This notice will be provided within the same time frame that the Plan Administrator would have provided the notice of right to elect continuation coverage.

Maximum Period of Continuation Coverage

The maximum period of continuation coverage is 36 months from the date of the qualifying event, unless the qualifying event is your termination of employment or reduction in hours. In that case, the maximum period of continuation coverage is generally 18 months from the date of the qualifying event.

However, if a qualifying individual is disabled (as determined under the Social Security Act) at the time of your termination or reduction in hours or becomes disabled at any time during the first 60 days of continuation coverage, continuation coverage for the qualifying individual and any non-disabled eligible dependents who are also entitled to continuation coverage may be extended to 29 months provided the qualifying individual or dependent, if applicable, notifies the Plan Administrator in writing within the 18-month continuation coverage period and within 60 days after receiving notification of determination of disability.

If a second qualifying event occurs (for example, your death or divorce) during the 18- or 29-month coverage period resulting from your termination of employment or reduction in hours, the maximum period of coverage will be computed from the date of the first qualifying event, but will be extended to the full 36 months if required by the subsequent qualifying event.

A special rule applies if the qualifying individual is your spouse or dependent child whose qualifying event was the termination or reduction in hours of your employment and you became entitled to Medicare within 18 months before such qualifying event. In that case, the qualifying individual's maximum period of continuation coverage is the longer of 36 months from the date of your Medicare entitlement or their otherwise applicable maximum period of coverage.

Cost of Continuation Coverage

The cost of continuation coverage is determined by the Employer and paid by the qualifying individual. If the qualifying individual is not disabled, the applicable premium cannot exceed 102 percent of the Plan's cost of providing coverage. The cost of coverage during a period of extended continuation coverage due to a disability cannot exceed 150 percent of the Plan's cost of coverage.

Premium payments for continuation coverage for you or your eligible dependent's "initial premium month(s)" are due by the 45th day after electing continuation coverage. The "initial premium month(s)" are any month that ends on or before the 45th day after you or the qualifying individual elects continuation coverage. All other premiums are due on the first of the month for which coverage is sought, subject to a 30-day grace period. Premium rates are established by your Employer and may change when necessary due to Plan modifications. The cost of continuation coverage is computed from the date coverage would normally end due to the qualifying event.

Failure to make the first payment within 45 days or any subsequent payment within 30 days of the established due date will result in the permanent cancellation of continuation coverage.

When Continuation Coverage Ends

Continuation of coverage ends on the earliest of:

1. The date the maximum continuation coverage period expires;
2. The date your Employer no longer offers a group health plan to any of its employees;
3. The first day for which timely payment is not made to the Plan;
4. The date the qualifying individual becomes covered by another group health plan. However, if the new plan contains an exclusion or limitation for a pre-existing condition of the qualifying

individual, continuation coverage will end as of the date the exclusion or limitation no longer applies;

5. The date the qualifying individual becomes entitled to coverage under Medicare; and
6. The first day of the month that begins more than 30 days after the qualifying individual who was entitled to a 29-month maximum continuation period is subject to a final determination under the Social Security Act that he or she is no longer disabled.

Note: The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) requires that all health insurance carriers that offer coverage in the individual market accept any eligible individuals who apply for coverage without imposing a pre-existing condition exclusion. In order to be eligible to apply for such coverage from a carrier after ceasing participation in the Plan, you or your eligible dependents must elect continuation coverage under the Plan, continue through the maximum continuation coverage period (18, 29, or 36 months, as applicable), and then apply for coverage with the individual insurance carrier before a 63 day lapse in coverage. For more information about your right to such individual insurance coverage, contact an independent insurance agent or your state insurance commissioner.

Notice of Termination Before Maximum Period of COBRA Coverage Expires

If continuation coverage for a qualifying individual terminates before the expiration of the maximum period of continuation coverage, the Plan Administrator will provide notice to the individual of the reason that the continuation coverage terminated, and the date of termination. The notice will be provided as soon as practicable following the Plan Administrator's determination regarding termination of the continuation coverage.

The Plan intends to comply with all applicable law regarding continuation (COBRA) coverage. If for some reason the information presented in this Plan differs from actual COBRA requirements, the Plan reserves the right to administer COBRA in accordance with such actual COBRA requirements.