

# IMPORTANT NOTICES

# 2022

CONCERNING YOUR EMPLOYEE BENEFITS



**For more information, contact:  
Karen Coufal  
Vice President, VEBA Program, NBISCO  
Nebraska Bankers Association  
888-419-8322  
[Karen.coufal@nebankers.org](mailto:Karen.coufal@nebankers.org)**

## CHANGES IN ENROLLMENT

### Open Enrollment

The open enrollment for medical, dental and vision takes place each year for a January 1 effective date. You and your eligible dependents may enroll during the open enrollment period.

### NOTICE OF YOUR HIPAA SPECIAL ENROLLMENT RIGHTS

**Loss of Other Coverage:** If you are declining enrollment for yourself and/or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance coverage or group health plan coverage, you may be able to enroll yourself and/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 dependent's coverage. To be eligible for this special enrollment opportunity you must request enrollment within 30 days after your other coverage ends or after the employer stops contributing towards the other coverage.

**New Dependent as a Result of Marriage, Birth, Adoption or Placement for Adoption:** 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/or your dependent(s). To be eligible for this special enrollment opportunity you must request enrollment within 30 days after the marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption.

**Termination of Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Coverage:** If you decline enrollment for yourself or for an eligible dependent (including your spouse) while Medicaid coverage or coverage under a state children's health insurance program is in effect, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after your or your dependents' coverage ends under Medicaid or a state children's health insurance program.

**Eligibility for Employment Assistance under Medicaid or CHIP:** If you or your dependents (including your spouse) become eligible for a state premium assistance subsidy from Medicaid or through a state children's health insurance program with respect to coverage under this plan, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after your or your dependents' determination of eligibility for such assistance.

All questions about Special Enrollment should be directed to Karen Coufal.

### WOMEN'S HEALTH AND CANCER RIGHTS ACT (WHCRA)

On October 21, 1998 Congress passed a bill called the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act. This law requires group health plans that provide coverage for mastectomy to provide coverage for certain reconstructive services. These services include:

- All states of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy was performed
- Surgery/reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance
- Prostheses
- Physical complications during all stages of mastectomy, including lymphedemas

These benefits will be provided subject to the same deductibles and coinsurance applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under the plan. Therefore, the group health plan's deductibles and coinsurance apply.

If you have questions about the current plan coverage, please contact Karen Coufal at 888-419-8322.

### NEWBORNS' ACT DISCLOSURE

Group health plans and health insurance issuers generally may not, under Federal law, restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section.

However, Federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable).

In any case, plans and issuers may not, under Federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the insurance issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

## **AVAILABILITY OF HIPAA NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**

### **Nebraska Bankers Association VEBA Group Insurance Plans**

#### **Protecting Your Health Information Privacy Rights**

January 1, 2022

Nebraska Bankers Association Voluntary Employees Beneficiary Association is committed to the privacy of your health information. The administrators of the Nebraska Bankers Association VEBA Group Insurance Plans (the "Plan") use strict privacy standards to protect your health information from unauthorized use or disclosure.

The Plan's policies protecting your privacy rights and your rights under the law are described in the Plan's Notice of Privacy Practices. You may receive a copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices by contacting Karen Coufal at 888-419-8322.

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM NEBRASKA BANKERS ASSOCIATION VOLUNTARY EMPLOYEES BENEFICIARY ASSOCIATION 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 Nebraska Bankers Association Voluntary Employees Beneficiary Association (the Group) and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether or not you want to join a Medicare drug plan. If you are considering joining, 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. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.

There are two important things you need to know about your current coverage and Medicare's prescription drug coverage:

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 Group has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Nebraska Bankers Association VEBA Group Insurance Plans is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage. Because your existing coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.

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### **When Can You Join A Medicare Drug Plan?**

You can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15th to December 7th.

However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan.

### **What Happens To Your Current Coverage If You Decide to Join A Medicare Drug Plan?**

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your current coverage with the Group may be affected.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Group coverage, be aware that you and your dependents may not be able to get this coverage back.

### **When Will You Pay A Higher Premium (Penalty) To Join A Medicare Drug Plan?**

You should also know that if you drop or lose your current coverage with the Group and don't join a Medicare drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan later.

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the Medicare base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without creditable coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

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

Contact the person listed below for further information. **NOTE:** You'll get this notice each year before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this coverage through the Group changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

**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, therefore, whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).**

Date: January 1, 2022  
Name of Entity: Nebraska Bankers Association Voluntary Employees Beneficiary Association  
Contact: Karen Coufal  
Address: 233 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 700, Lincoln, NE 68508  
Phone Number: 888-419-8322

## PREMIUM ASSISTANCE UNDER MEDICAID AND THE CHILDREN’S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (CHIP)

If you or your children are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP and you’re eligible for health coverage from your employer, your state may have a premium assistance program that can help pay for coverage, using funds from their Medicaid or CHIP programs. If you or your children aren’t eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, you won’t be eligible for these premium assistance programs but you may be able to buy individual insurance coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace. For more information, visit [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

If you or your dependents are already enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP and you live in a State listed below, 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, 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. If you qualify, ask your state if it has a program that might help you pay the premiums for an employer-sponsored plan.

If you or your dependents are eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or CHIP, as well as eligible under your employer plan, your employer must allow you to enroll in your employer plan if you aren’t already enrolled. This is called a “special enrollment” opportunity, and you must request coverage within 60 days of being determined eligible for premium assistance. If you have questions about enrolling in your employer plan, contact the Department of Labor at [www.askebsa.dol.gov](http://www.askebsa.dol.gov) or call **1-866-444-EBSA (3272)**.

**If you live in one of the following states, you may be eligible for assistance paying your employer health plan premiums. The following list of states is current as of July 31, 2021. Contact your State for more information on eligibility –**

<b>ALABAMA – Medicaid</b>	<b>COLORADO – Health First Colorado (Colorado’s Medicaid Program) &amp; Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+)</b>
Website: <a href="http://myalhipp.com/">http://myalhipp.com/</a> Phone: 1-855-692-5447	Health First Colorado Website: <a href="https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/">https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/</a> Health First Colorado Member Contact Center: 1-800-221-3943/ State Relay 711 CHP+: <a href="https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/child-health-plan-plus">https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/child-health-plan-plus</a> CHP+ Customer Service: 1-800-359-1991/ State Relay 711 Health Insurance Buy-In Program (HIBI): <a href="https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/health-insurance-buy-program">https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/health-insurance-buy-program</a> HIBI Customer Service: 1-855-692-6442
<b>ALASKA – Medicaid</b>	<b>FLORIDA – Medicaid</b>
The AK Health Insurance Premium Payment Program Website: <a href="http://myakhipp.com/">http://myakhipp.com/</a> Phone: 1-866-251-4861 Email: <a href="mailto:CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com">CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com</a> Medicaid Eligibility: <a href="http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/medicaid/default.aspx">http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/medicaid/default.aspx</a>	Website: <a href="https://www.flmedicaidtprecovery.com/flmedicaidtprecovery.com/hipp/index.html">https://www.flmedicaidtprecovery.com/flmedicaidtprecovery.com/hipp/index.html</a> Phone: 1-877-357-3268
<b>ARKANSAS – Medicaid</b>	<b>GEORGIA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://myarhipp.com/">http://myarhipp.com/</a> Phone: 1-855-MyARHIPP (855-692-7447)	Website: <a href="https://medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp">https://medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp</a> Phone: 678-564-1162 ext 2131
<b>CALIFORNIA – Medicaid</b>	<b>INDIANA – Medicaid</b>
Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program <a href="http://dhcs.ca.gov/hipp">http://dhcs.ca.gov/hipp</a> Phone: 916-445-8322 Email: <a href="mailto:hipp@dhcs.ca.gov">hipp@dhcs.ca.gov</a>	Healthy Indiana Plan for low-income adults 19-64 Website: <a href="http://www.in.gov/fssa/hip/">http://www.in.gov/fssa/hip/</a> Phone: 1-877-438-4479 All other Medicaid Website: <a href="https://www.in.gov/medicaid/">https://www.in.gov/medicaid/</a> Phone 1-800-457-4584

IOWA – Medicaid and CHIP (Hawki)	MONTANA – Medicaid
Medicaid Website: <a href="https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members">https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members</a> Medicaid Phone: 1-800-338-8366 Hawki Website: <a href="http://dhs.iowa.gov/Hawki">http://dhs.iowa.gov/Hawki</a> Hawki Phone: 1-800-257-8563	Website: <a href="http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP">http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP</a> Phone: 1-800-694-3084
KANSAS – Medicaid	NEBRASKA – Medicaid
Website: <a href="https://www.kancare.ks.gov/">https://www.kancare.ks.gov/</a> Phone: 1-800-792-4884	Website: <a href="http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov">http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov</a> Phone: 1-855-632-7633 Lincoln: 402-473-7000 Omaha: 402-595-1178
KENTUCKY – Medicaid	NEVADA – Medicaid
Kentucky Integrated Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (KI-HIPP) Website: <a href="https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.aspx">https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.aspx</a> Phone: 1-855-459-6328 Email: <a href="mailto:KIHIP.PPROGRAM@ky.gov">KIHIP.PPROGRAM@ky.gov</a>  KCHIP Website: <a href="https://kidshealth.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx">https://kidshealth.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx</a> Phone: 1-877-524-4718  Kentucky Medicaid Website: <a href="https://chfs.ky.gov">https://chfs.ky.gov</a>	Medicaid Website: <a href="http://dhcfnv.gov">http://dhcfnv.gov</a> Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900
LOUISIANA – Medicaid	NEW HAMPSHIRE – Medicaid
Website: <a href="http://www.medicaid.la.gov">www.medicaid.la.gov</a> or <a href="http://www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp">www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp</a> Phone: 1-888-342-6207 (Medicaid hotline) or 1-855-618-5488 (LaHIPP)	Website: <a href="https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oii/hipp.htm">https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oii/hipp.htm</a> Phone: 603-271-5218 Toll free number for the HIPP program: 1-800-852-3345, ext 5218
MAINE – Medicaid	NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP
Enrollment Website: <a href="https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms">https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms</a> Phone: 1-800-442-6003 TTY: Maine relay 711  Private Health Insurance Premium Webpage: <a href="https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms">https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms</a> Phone: -800-977-6740. TTY: Maine relay 711	Medicaid Website: <a href="http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/">http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/</a> Medicaid Phone: 609-631-2392 CHIP Website: <a href="http://www.njfamilycare.org/index.html">http://www.njfamilycare.org/index.html</a> CHIP Phone: 1-800-701-0710
MASSACHUSETTS – Medicaid and CHIP	NEW YORK – Medicaid
Website: <a href="https://www.mass.gov/info-details/mashealth-premium-assistance-pa">https://www.mass.gov/info-details/mashealth-premium-assistance-pa</a> Phone: 1-800-862-4840	Website: <a href="https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/">https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/</a> Phone: 1-800-541-2831
MINNESOTA – Medicaid	NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid
Website: <a href="https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/children-and-families/health-care/health-care-programs/programs-and-services/other-insurance.jsp">https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/children-and-families/health-care/health-care-programs/programs-and-services/other-insurance.jsp</a> Phone: 1-800-657-3739	Website: <a href="https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/">https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/</a> Phone: 919-855-4100
MISSOURI – Medicaid	NORTH DAKOTA – Medicaid

Website: <a href="http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm">http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm</a> Phone: 573-751-2005	Website: <a href="http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/medicalserv/medicaid/">http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/medicalserv/medicaid/</a> Phone: 1-844-854-4825
<b>OKLAHOMA – Medicaid and CHIP</b>	<b>UTAH – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.insureoklahoma.org">http://www.insureoklahoma.org</a> Phone: 1-888-365-3742	Medicaid Website: <a href="https://medicaid.utah.gov/">https://medicaid.utah.gov/</a> CHIP Website: <a href="http://health.utah.gov/chip">http://health.utah.gov/chip</a> Phone: 1-877-543-7669
<b>OREGON – Medicaid</b>	<b>VERMONT– Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx">http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx</a> <a href="http://www.oregonhealthcare.gov/index-es.html">http://www.oregonhealthcare.gov/index-es.html</a> Phone: 1-800-699-9075	Website: <a href="http://www.greenmountaincare.org/">http://www.greenmountaincare.org/</a> Phone: 1-800-250-8427
<b>PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid</b>	<b>VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Website: <a href="https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Medicaid/HIPP-Program.aspx">https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Medicaid/HIPP-Program.aspx</a> Phone: 1-800-692-7462	Website: <a href="https://www.coverva.org/en/famis-select">https://www.coverva.org/en/famis-select</a> <a href="https://www.coverva.org/en/hipp">https://www.coverva.org/en/hipp</a> Medicaid Phone: 1-800-432-5924 CHIP Phone: 1-800-432-5924
<b>RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid and CHIP</b>	<b>WASHINGTON – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/">http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/</a> Phone: 1-855-697-4347, or 401-462-0311 (Direct Rlte Share Line)	Website: <a href="https://www.hca.wa.gov/">https://www.hca.wa.gov/</a> Phone: 1-800-562-3022
<b>SOUTH CAROLINA – Medicaid</b>	<b>WEST VIRGINIA – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="https://www.scdhhs.gov">https://www.scdhhs.gov</a> Phone: 1-888-549-0820	Website: <a href="http://mywvhipp.com/">http://mywvhipp.com/</a> Toll-free phone: 1-855-MyWVHIPP (1-855-699-8447)
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA - Medicaid</b>	<b>WISCONSIN – Medicaid and CHIP</b>
Website: <a href="http://dss.sd.gov">http://dss.sd.gov</a> Phone: 1-888-828-0059	Website: <a href="https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm">https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm</a> Phone: 1-800-362-3002
<b>TEXAS – Medicaid</b>	<b>WYOMING – Medicaid</b>
Website: <a href="http://gethipptexas.com/">http://gethipptexas.com/</a> Phone: 1-800-440-0493	Website: <a href="https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/programs-and-eligibility/">https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/programs-and-eligibility/</a> Phone: 1-800-251-1269

**To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since July 31, 2021, or for more information on special enrollment rights, contact either:**

U.S. Department of Labor  
Employee Benefits Security Administration  
[www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa)  
1-866-444-EBSA (3272)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
[www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov)  
1-877-267-2323, Menu Option 4, Ext. 61565

## NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

**THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.**

**Please Review It Carefully.**

This notice is effective on July 26, 2018. If you have any questions about this notice, please contact the Privacy Officer for the Plan(s):

### **Privacy Office**

**Nebraska Bankers Association Voluntary Employees Beneficiary Association**

**P.O. Box 80008**

**Lincoln, NE 68501-0008**

**888-419-8322**

### **Who Will Follow This Notice**

This notice describes the medical information practices of the Nebraska Bankers Association Voluntary Employees Beneficiary Association group health and welfare plan(s) (the "Plan") under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA") and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act ("HITECH") and describes how the Plan will use or disclosure your Protected Health Information to carry out treatment, payment, or healthcare operations, or for any other purpose permitted or required by law.

We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your protected health information, to provide you with a notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your protected health information, and to follow the terms of the notice that is currently in effect. We are also required to notify affected individuals in the case of a breach of unsecured protected health information.

### **Our Pledge Regarding Protected Health Information**

We understand that your protected health information and your health is personal and are committed to safeguarding your protected health information. We create a record of the health care claims reimbursed under the Plan for Plan administration purposes. This notice applies to all of the medical records, including claims records, the Plan maintains. Your personal doctor or health care provider may have different policies or notices regarding the doctor's use and disclosure of your protected health information created in the doctor's office or clinic.

This notice will tell you about the ways in which we may use and disclose your protected health information. It also describes our obligations and your rights regarding the use and disclosure of protected health information.

**We reserve the right to change the terms of this Notice and to make new provisions about your protected health information that we maintain, as allowed or required by law. If we make any material change, we will provide you with a copy of our revised Notice of Privacy Practices by direct mail or hand delivery. A copy of the revised Notice of Privacy Practices will also be posted on our company website.**

HIPAA only protects certain medical information known as "protected health information." Generally, protected health information is information created or received by a health care provider, a health care clearing house, a health plan, or your employer on behalf of your health plan, from which it is possible to identify you and which relates to: (1) your past, present, or future physical or mental health condition; (2) the provision of health care to you; or (3) the past, present, or future payment of health care claims on your behalf. Note: The individually identifiable health information of a person who has been deceased for more than 50 years is not protected health information under the Privacy Rule.

### **How We May Use and Disclose Your Protected Health Information ("PHI")**

The following categories describe different ways that we use and disclose protected health information. For each category of uses or disclosures we will explain what we mean and present some examples. Not every use or disclosure in a category

will be listed. However, all of the ways we are permitted to use and disclose information will fall within one of the categories.

**For Treatment (as described in applicable regulations).** We may use or disclose your protected health information to facilitate medical treatment or services by providers. We may disclose protected health information about you to providers, including doctors, nurses, technicians, medical students, or other hospital personnel who are involved in taking care of you. For example, we might use your PHI information for case management.

**For Payment (as described in applicable regulations).** We may use and disclose your protected health information to determine eligibility for Plan benefits, to facilitate payment for the treatment and services you receive from health care providers, to determine benefit responsibility under the Plan, or to coordinate Plan coverage. For example, we may use your PHI to adjudicate a claim for a specialist office visit. We may also share medical information with a utilization review or precertification service provider, to assist with the adjudication or subrogation of health claims, or to another health plan to coordinate benefit payments.

**For Health Care Operations (as described in applicable regulations).** We may use and disclose your protected health information for other Plan operations. These uses and disclosures are necessary to run the Plan. For example, we may use your PHI for underwriting, premium rating, and other activities relating to determining plan coverage.

**As Required By Law.** We will disclose your protected health information when required to do so by federal, state, or local law. For example, we may disclose medical information when required by a court order in a litigation proceeding, such as a malpractice action, or a divorce proceeding.

**To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety.** We may use and disclose your protected health information when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your, another person's, or the public's health and safety. But disclosure would only be to someone able to help prevent the serious threat. For example, we may disclose your protected health information in case of exposure to a highly infectious disease.

**To Plan Sponsors.** For plan administration purposes, your protected health information may be disclosed to specifically designated employees of your employer. Those employees will only use or disclose that protected health information necessary to perform plan administration functions or as otherwise required or permitted by HIPAA. Your employer may not use protected health information for employment purposes without your express authorization. Information may be disclosed to another health plan (as described by HIPAA) maintained by Nebraska Bankers Association Voluntary Employees Beneficiary Association for purposes of facilitating claims payable under that plan or for other purposes permitted by HIPAA.

**To Business Associates.** We may contract with individuals or entities known as Business Associates to perform various functions on behalf of the Plan or to provide certain types of services. In order to perform these functions or to provide these services, Business Associates will receive, create, maintain, transmit, use, and/or disclose your protected health information, but only after they agree in writing to implement appropriate safeguards regarding your protected health information. For example, we may disclose your protected health information to a Business Associate such as a third-party administrator to process your claims for Plan benefits.

**Prohibition on Use or Disclosure of Genetic Information.** The plan (other than the long term care plan, if applicable,) is prohibited from using or disclosing your genetic information for underwriting purposes.

**Treatment Alternatives or Health-Related Benefits and Services.** We may use and disclose your protected health information to send you information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services.

### **Special Situations**

The following are categories of other circumstances in which we may use or disclose your protected health information. While this is not an exhaustive list of the specific ways that we may use or disclose your PHI, each way that we may use or disclose your PHI would fall into one of these categories.

**Organ and Tissue Donation.** If you are an organ donor, we may release your protected health information to organizations that handle organ procurement or organ, eye or tissue transplantation or to an organ donation bank as necessary.

**Military and Veterans.** If you are a current member of the armed forces, we may release protected health information as deemed necessary by military command authorities to ensure the proper execution of their military mission. We may also release protected health information about foreign military personnel to the appropriate foreign military authority.

**Workers' Compensation.** We may release your protected health information to the extent necessary to comply with laws relating workers' compensation or similar programs, that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness without regard to fault.

**Public Health Risks.** We may disclose your protected health information to public health authorities. Reportable activities generally include the following:

- to prevent or control disease, injury or disability;
- to report births and deaths;
- to report child abuse or neglect;
- to conduct public health surveillance, investigation, or intervention;
- to notify a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease;
- to notify the appropriate government authority if we believe a patient has been the victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence, but only if you agree to the disclosure, or the disclosure is required or authorized by law.

**Health Oversight Activities.** We may disclose your protected health information to a health oversight agency for reasons authorized by law. For example, a health oversight agency may conduct audits, investigations, inspections, and licensure (e.g., reporting the results of a TB test to the Center for Disease Control).

**Lawsuits and Disputes.** If you are involved in a lawsuit or a legal dispute, we may disclose your protected health information in response to a court or administrative order, a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process by someone else involved in the dispute. Prior to responding, we will attempt to inform you of the request or obtain an order protecting the health information requested.

**Law Enforcement.** We may release medical information if asked to do so by a law enforcement official:

- to report certain types of wounds or other physical injuries as required by law;
- in response to a court order, subpoena, court-ordered warrant, summons or similar process issued by a judicial officer;
- in response to a grand jury subpoena; or
- as otherwise permitted by HIPAA.

**Coroners, Medical Examiners and Funeral Directors.** We may release your protected health information to a coroner or medical examiner for the purposes of identifying a deceased person, determining a cause of death, or other duties authorized by law. We may also release protected health information to funeral directors as necessary to carry out their duties.

**National Security and Intelligence Activities.** We may release your protected health information to authorized federal officials for lawful intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities authorized by the National Security Act and implementing regulations.

**Inmates.** If you are an inmate of a correctional institution or under the custody of a law enforcement official with lawful custody over you, we may release your protected health information to the correctional institution or law enforcement official, if that information is necessary for one of the following:

- (a) to provide you with health care;
- (b) to protect your health and safety or the health and safety of other individuals; or
- (c) for the safety and security of officers or employees of the correctional institution.

**Uses and Disclosures for Which Your Written Authorization is Required.** We may use or disclose your personal health information in the following circumstances only with your written authorization:

- (1) Disclosure to your spouse, another family member such as a parent for an adult child, or a close personal friend designated by you to receive your protected health information, including an individual involved in your care prior to your death, unless you object.

All other uses and disclosures of your PHI not described in this Notice of Privacy Practices will be made only with your written authorization. You have the right to revoke your written authorization at any time, but you must do so in writing,

and we are required to comply with your request, except to the extent that we took prior action relying upon your authorization.

### **Your Rights Regarding Your Protected Health Information**

You have the following rights regarding protected health information we maintain about you:

**Right to Inspect and Copy.** You have the right to inspect and copy protected health information maintained by the Plan in a designated record set. To inspect and copy your designated record set, you must submit your request in writing to the Plan's Privacy Officer. If you request a copy of the information, we may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing or other supplies associated with your request.

We may deny your request to inspect and copy in certain very limited circumstances. If you are denied access to medical information, you may request that the denial be reviewed.

**Right to Amend.** If you feel that protected health information we have about you is inaccurate or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by or for the Plan in a designated record set.

To request an amendment, your request must be made in writing and submitted to the Plan's Privacy Officer. In addition, you must provide a reason that supports your request.

We may deny your request for an amendment if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support the request. In addition, we may deny your request if you ask us to amend information that:

- is not part of the designated record set kept by or for the Plan;
- was not created by us, unless you provide us with information that the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to make the amendment;
- is not part of the information which you would be permitted to inspect and copy; or
- is accurate and complete.

**Right to an Accounting of Disclosures.** You have the right to request an "accounting of disclosures" (i.e., a list) of your protected health information where such disclosures were made other than: (1) for treatment, payment, or health care operations; (2) to you; (3) pursuant to your authorization; (4) to friends or family in your presence or due to an emergency; (5) for national security purposes; or (6) incidental to an otherwise permissible use or disclosure.

To request this accounting of disclosures, you must submit your request in writing to the Plan's Privacy Officer. Your request must state a time period which may not be longer than six years from the date of the request. Your request should indicate in what form you want the accounting (for example, paper or electronic). The first accounting you request within a 12-month period will be free. For additional accountings, we may charge you for the costs of providing the accounting. We will notify you of the cost involved, and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request at that time before any costs are incurred to comply with the original request.

**Right to Request Restrictions.** You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the protected health information we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment, or health care operations. You also have the right to request a limitation on the protected health information we disclose about you to someone who is involved in your care or the payment for your care, such as a family member or friend. For example, you could ask that we not use or disclose information to a family member about a treatment for Hepatitis C you had.

We are not required to agree to a requested restriction or limitation, unless your request is made to restrict disclosure to an insurance carrier for purposes of carrying out payment or health care operations (and is not for purposes of carrying out treatment), and the protected health information pertains solely to a health care item or service for which you have paid the healthcare provider out of pocket in full. If we do agree to a restriction or limitation, we must abide by it unless you revoke it in writing.

To request restrictions, you must make your request in writing to the Plan's Privacy Officer. In your request, you must tell us:

- (a) what information you want to limit or restrict;

- (b) whether you want to limit our use, disclosure or both; and
- (c) to whom you want the limits to apply, for example, disclosures to another family member.

**Right to Request Confidential Communications.** You have the right to request that we communicate with you about medical matters in an alternative way or at an alternative location. For example, you can ask that we only contact you at work or by cell phone.

To request confidential communications, you must make your request in writing to the Plan's Privacy Officer. We will not ask you the reason for your request, and we will accommodate all reasonable requests.

**A Note About Personal Representatives.** You may exercise your rights through a personal representative. Your personal representative will be required to produce evidence of his/her authority to act on your behalf before that person will be given access to your PHI or allowed to take any action for you. Proof of such authority may take one of the following forms:

- a power of attorney for health care purposes, notarized by a notary public;
- a court order of appointment of the person as the conservator or guardian of the individual; or
- verification of identity as an individual who is the parent of a minor child. The Plan retains discretion to deny access to your PHI to a personal representative to provide protection to those vulnerable people who depend on others to exercise their rights under these rules and who may be subject to abuse or neglect. This also applies to personal representatives of minors.

However, we are not required to disclose your protected health information to a personal representative if we have a reasonable belief that: (1) you are or may have been subject to domestic violence, abuse or neglect by the designated personal representative; (2) treating the designated individual as your personal representative would endanger you; or (3) it is not in your best interest, using professional judgment, to allow the designated individual to act as your personal representative.

**Right to Request Electronic Copy of PHI Maintained Electronically in One or More Designated Record Sets.** If the plan maintains an "electronic health record" or maintains your PHI electronically in a "designated record set," you have the right to: (1) obtain a copy of the information in electronic format and/or (2) ask the Plan to send the copy to a third party. The Plan requires you to make the request for electronic copies of your PHI in writing, and the Plan may charge you a reasonable fee for labor costs for sending the electronic copy of your health information. To request an accounting of electronic health records, you must make the request in writing to the Plan's Privacy Officer.

**Right to be Notified of a Breach.** You have the right to be notified in the event that the Plan (or a Business Associate) discovers a breach of your unsecured protected health information. Business Associates include the Business Associates themselves and their subcontractors.

**Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice.** You have the right to receive a paper copy of this notice. You may ask us to provide you a copy of this notice at any time. Even if you have agreed to receive this notice electronically, you are still entitled to a paper copy of this notice.

To obtain a paper copy of this notice via mail, contact the Plan's Privacy Officer.

### **Changes to This Notice**

We reserve the right to change this notice. We reserve the right to make the revised or changed notice effective for medical information we already have about you as well as any information we receive in the future. We will post a copy of the current notice on the employer website or Intranet. The notice will contain on the first page, in the top right-hand corner, the effective date.

### **Complaints**

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated you may file a complaint with the Plan. To file a complaint with the Plan, contact the Plan's Privacy Officer. All complaints must be submitted in writing. In addition to filing a complaint with the Plan you may file a complaint with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

### **Other Uses of Medical Information**

All other uses and disclosures of your medical information not described in this Notice of Privacy Practices or HIPAA and its implementing regulations will be made only with your written authorization. You have the right to revoke your written authorization at any time, but you must do so in writing, and we are required to comply with your request, except to the extent that we took prior action relying upon your authorization.