### **IMPORTANT NOTICES**

#### INITIAL NOTICE OF YOUR HIPAA SPECIAL ENROLLMENT RIGHTS

LOSS OF OTHER COVERAGE - If you are declining enroll-ment 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.

**MEDICAID COVERAGE** - The ER HOSPTIALS group health plan will allow an employee or dependent who is eligible, but not enrolled for coverage, to enroll for coverage if either of the following events occur:

Termination of Medicaid or CHIP Coverage - If the employee or dependent is covered under a Medicaid plan or under a State child health plan (SCHIP) and coverage of the employee or dependent under such a plan is terminated as a result of loss of eligibility.

Eligibility for Premium Assistance Under Medicaid or CHIP - If the employee or dependent becomes eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or SCHIP, including under any waiver or demonstration project conducted under or in relation to such a plan. This is usually a program where the state assists employed individuals with premium payment assistance for their employer's group health plan rather than direct enrollment in a state Medicaid program.

To be eligible for this special enrollment opportunity you must request coverage under the group health plan **within 60 days** after the date the employee or dependent becomes eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or SCHIP or the date you or your dependent's Medicaid or state-sponsored CHIP coverage ends.

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, please contact Corporate Human Resources at 478-289-1100.

# 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.

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 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.

#### PROTECTING YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION PRIVACY RIGHTS

ER HOSPITALS is committed to the privacy of your health information. The administrators of the ER HOSPITALS Health Care Plan (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 human resources. The notice also is available online at www.erhospitals.a2portal.com.



### **IMPORTANT NOTICES (CONTINUED)**

#### THE WOMEN'S HEALTH AND CANCER RIGHTS ACT

The Women's Health and Cancer Right Act requires group health plans that provide coverage for mastectomy to provide coverage for certain reconstructive services. This law also requires that written notice of the availability of the coverage be delivered to all plan participants upon enrollment and annually thereafter. This language serves to fulfill that requirement for this year. These services include:

- Reconstruction of the breast upon which the mastectomy has been performed;
- Surgery/reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance;
- · Prostheses; and
- Treatment for physical complications during all stages of mastectomy, including lymphedemas.

#### IN ADDITION, THE PLAN MAY NOT:

- Interfere with a participant's rights under the plan to avoid these requirement; or
- Offer inducements to the healthcare provider, or assess penalties against the provider, in an attempt to interfere with the require-ments of the law.

However, the plan may apply deductibles, coinsurance, and copays consistent with other coverage provided by the Plan. If you have any questions about the current plan coverage, please contact Human Resources at 478-289-1100. You may receive a copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices by contacting human resources. The notice also is available online at www.erhospitals.a2portal.com.

#### KNOW YOUR COBRA NOTIFICATION RESPONSIBILITIES

It is your responsibility to notify Human Resources when a dependent becomes eligible or ceases to be eligible for coverage under our benefit plans. All eligibility changes should be reported within 30 days of the event. Failure to report changes in a timely manner can impact your ability to add newly eligible dependents of discontinue pre-tax premium contributions on ineligible dependents.

In addition, failure to report a loss of eligibility due to legal separation or divorce or a dependent that has otherwise ceased to be eligible, such as a child reaching the maximum dependent child age limit, can impact your dependent's rights for group health plan coverage under the federal law known as COBRA. If you fail to report the loss of eligibility within 60 days of the event, your dependents may be left with no continuation coverage under our plan. Please see your COBRA notice or your group health plan summary plan description for additional information.

You may receive a copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices by contacting your Branch Administrator or Corporate Human Resources.

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To be eligible for this special enrollment opportunity you must request coverage under the group health plan **within 60 days** after the date the employee or dependent becomes eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or SCHIP or the date you or your dependent's Medicaid or state-sponsored CHIP coverage ends.

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, please contact Corporate Human Resources at 478-289-1100.

### **IMPORTANT NOTICES (CONTINUED)**

## IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM ER HOSPITALS 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 **ER HOSPITALS** 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. ER HOSPITALS has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the ER HOSPITALS Medical Benefits Plan 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.

#### WHEN CAN YOU JOIN A MEDICARE DRUG PLAN?

You can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Med-icare 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 **ER HOSPITALS** coverage will not be affected. If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current **ER HOSPITALS** coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will not be able to get this coverage back until the next open enrollment period unless you experience a qualified life event.

Note that your current coverage pays for other health expenses, in addition to prescription drugs, and you will still be eligible to receive all of your current health and prescription drug benefits if you choose to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and keep your coverage under the **ER HOSPITALS** Medical Benefits Plan.

### 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 ER HOSPITALS 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. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this cov-erage through ER HOSPITALS 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 <u>www.medicare.gov</u>

Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of your copy of the "Medicare & You" hand-book 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 <a href="https://www.socialsecurity.gov">www.socialsecurity.gov</a>, or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

**DATE:** November 2018

**NAME OF ENTITY/SENDER:** ER HOSPITALS/ ERH Shared Services

**CONTACT--POSITION/OFFICE:** Human Resources

ADDRESS: 117 Kite Rd, Swainsboro, GA 30401

**PHONE NUMBER:** 478-289-1100

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).