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2024 Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan - FEP Blue Focus

FEHB Facts

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Any person covered under the 31-day extension of coverage who is confined in a hospital or other institution for care or treatment on the 31st day of the temporary extension is entitled to continuation of the benefits of the Plan during the continuance of the confinement but not beyond the 60th day after the end of the 31-day temporary extension.

You may be eligible for spouse equity coverage or assistance with enrolling in a conversion policy (non-FEHB individual policy). FEP helps members with Temporary Continuation of Coverage (TCC) and with finding replacement coverage.

- **Upon divorce**

If you are an enrollee, and your divorce or annulment is final, your ex-spouse cannot remain covered as a family member under your Self Plus One or Self and Family enrollment. You must contact us to let us know the date of the divorce or annulment and have us remove your ex-spouse. We may ask for a copy of the divorce decree as proof. In order to change enrollment type, you must contact your employing or retirement office. A change will not automatically be made.

If you were married to an enrollee and your divorce or annulment is final, you may not remain covered as a family member under your former spouse's enrollment. This is the case even when the court has ordered your former spouse to provide health benefits coverage for you. However, you may be eligible for your own FEHB coverage under either the spouse equity law or TCC. If you are recently divorced or are anticipating a divorce, contact your ex-spouse's employing or retirement office to get additional information about your coverage choices. You can also visit OPM's website, www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/plan-information/guides. We may request that you verify the eligibility of any or all family members listed as covered under the enrollee's FEHB enrollment.

- **Temporary Continuation of Coverage (TCC)**

If you leave Federal service or Tribal employment, or if you lose coverage because you no longer

qualify as a family member, you may be eligible for TCC. For example, you can receive TCC if you are not able to continue your FEHB enrollment after you retire, if you lose your Federal job, or if you are a covered child and you turn age 26, regardless of marital status, etc.

You may not elect TCC if you are fired from your Federal or Tribal job due to gross misconduct.

Enrolling in TCC. Get the RI 79-27, which describes TCC, from your employing or retirement office or from www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/plan-information/guides. It explains what you have to do to enroll.

Alternatively, you can buy coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace where, depending on your income, you could be eligible for a tax credit that lowers your monthly premiums. Visit www.HealthCare.gov to compare plans and see what your premium, deductible, and out-of-pocket costs would be before you make a decision to enroll. Finally, if you qualify for coverage under another group health plan (such as your spouse's plan), you may be able to enroll in that plan, as long as you apply within 30 days of losing FEHB coverage.

We also want to inform you that the Patient Protection and ACA did not eliminate TCC or change the TCC rules.

• Finding replacement coverage

If you would like to purchase health insurance through the Affordable Care Act's Health Insurance Marketplace, please refer to the next Section of this brochure. We will help you find replacement coverage inside or outside the Marketplace. For assistance, please contact your Local Plan at the phone number appearing on the back of your ID card, or visit www.bcbs.com to access the website of your Local Plan.

Note: We do not determine who is eligible to purchase health benefits coverage inside the Affordable Care Act's Health Insurance Marketplace. These rules are established by the Federal Government agencies that have responsibility for implementing the Affordable Care Act and by the Marketplace.

• Health Insurance Marketplace

If you would like to purchase health insurance through the ACA's Health Insurance Marketplace, please visit www.HealthCare.gov. This is a website provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that provides up-to-date information on the Marketplace.

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