

# Important Notices

## **Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (Janet's Law)**

Your plan, as required by the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998, provides benefits for mastectomy-related services including reconstruction and surgery to achieve symmetry between the breasts, prostheses, and complications resulting from a mastectomy (including lymphedema). These benefits are subject to applicable terms and conditions under your health plan, including copayments, deductible, and coinsurance provisions. They are also subject to medical insurance limitations and exclusions. This notification is a requirement of the act.

*The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act (Women's Health Act) was signed into law on October 21, 1998. The law includes important new protections for breast cancer patients who elect breast reconstruction in connection with a mastectomy. The Women's Health Act amended the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and the Public Health Service Act (PHS Act) and is administered by the Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services.*

## **Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act**

The Newborns' Act is a federal law that prohibits group health plans and insurance companies (including HMOs) that cover hospitalization in connection with childbirth from restricting a mother's or newborn's benefits for such hospital stays to less than 48 hours following a natural delivery or 96 hours following delivery by cesarean section, unless the attending doctor, nurse midwife or other licensed health care provider, in consultation with the mother, discharges the mother or newborn child earlier.

## **Michelle's Law**

Michelle's Law is an act that requires health plans to allow college students who take a leave of absence or reduce their class load because of illness to retain their dependent status under their parents' health plan for up to one year. Students' eligibility for dependent coverage will continue for one year (unless the student would otherwise lose eligibility within the year). To qualify for protection under Michelle's Law, the following requirements must be met: the student must be enrolled as a full-time student immediately before the leave of absence or scheduled reduction, the student must have written certification from a treating physician that the leave of absence or reduced schedule is necessary due to a severe illness or injury, and the leave or reduced schedule must have triggered the loss of student status under the health plan. If the plan sponsor changes group health plans during a medically necessary leave and the new health plan offers coverage of dependent children, the new plan will be subject to the same rules.

## **How to Obtain a Notice of HIPAA Privacy Practices**

To obtain a notice of HIPAA privacy practices please contact Human Resources, or the insurance carriers at the telephone numbers listed at the end of this booklet.

## **Tell Us When You're Medicare Eligible**

Please notify Human Resources when you or your dependents become eligible for Medicare. We are required to contact the insurer to inform them of your Medicare status. Federal law determines whether Medicare or the health plan pays primary. You must also contact Medicare directly to notify them that you have health care coverage through an employer group. Privacy laws prohibit anyone other than the Medicare beneficiary, or their legal guardian, to update or change Medicare records. The toll free number to contact Medicare Coordination of Benefits Contractor is 1-800-999-1118.