



Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage

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PART A: General Information

Beginning in 2014 when key parts of the health care law took effect, a new way to buy health insurance became available: the Health Insurance Marketplace. To assist you as you evaluate options for you and your family, this notice provides some basic information about the new Marketplace and employment-based health coverage offered by your employer.

What is the Health Insurance Marketplace?

The Marketplace is designed to help you find health insurance that meets your needs and fits your budget. The Marketplace offers "one-stop shopping" to find and compare private health insurance options. You may also be eligible for a new kind of tax credit that lowers your monthly premium right away. Open enrollment for health insurance coverage through the Marketplace is generally held in the late fall for coverage starting the following January 1.

Can I Save Money on my Health Insurance Premiums in the Marketplace?

You may qualify to save money and lower your monthly premium, but only if your employer does not offer coverage, or offers coverage that doesn't meet certain standards. The savings on your premium that you're eligible for depends on your household income.

Does Employer Health Coverage Affect Eligibility for Premium Savings through the Marketplace?

Yes. If you have an offer of health coverage from your employer that meets certain standards, you will not be eligible for a tax credit through the Marketplace and may wish to enroll in your employer's health plan. However, you may be eligible for a tax credit that lowers your monthly premium, or a reduction in certain cost-sharing if your employer does not offer coverage to you at all or does not offer coverage that meets certain standards. If the cost of a plan from your employer that would cover you (and not any other members of your family) is more than 9.5% of your household income for the year, or if the coverage your employer provides does not meet the "minimum value" standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit.¹

Note: If you purchase a health plan through the Marketplace instead of accepting health coverage offered by your employer, then you may lose the employer contribution (if any) to the employer-offered coverage. Also, this employer contribution -as well as your employee contribution to employer-offered coverage- is often excluded from income for Federal and State income tax purposes. Your payments for coverage through the Marketplace are made on an after-tax basis.

How Can I Get More Information?

For more information about your coverage offered by your employer, please check your summary plan description or contact 713-500-3935; benefits@uth.tmc.edu.

The Marketplace can help you evaluate your coverage options, including your eligibility for coverage through the Marketplace and its cost. Please visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) for more information, including an online application for health insurance coverage and contact information for a Health Insurance Marketplace in your area.

¹ An employer-sponsored health plan meets the "minimum value standard" if the plan's share of the total allowed benefit costs covered by the plan is no less than 60 percent of such costs.

PART B: Information About Health Coverage Offered by Your Employer

This section contains information about any health coverage offered by your employer. If you decide to complete an application for coverage in the Marketplace, you will be asked to provide this information. This information is numbered to correspond to the Marketplace application.

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|---|----------------|---|--|
| 3. Employer name The University of Texas Health Science Center Houston | | 4. Employer Identification Number (EIN) 74-1761309 | |
| 5. Employer address 7000 Fannin Street | | 6. Employer phone number 713-500-3935 | |
| 7. City Houston | 8. State TX | 9. ZIP code 77030 | |
| 10. Who can we contact about employee health coverage at this job? Benefits Department | | | |
| 11. Phone number (if different from above) | | 12. Email address benefits@uth.tmc.edu | |

Here is some basic information about health coverage offered by this employer:

- As your employer, we offer a health plan to:

All employees. Eligible employees are:

Some employees. Eligible employees are:

- Individuals who receive compensation for services performed for the institution and are eligible to be a member of the Teacher Retirement System (TRS), including individuals who elected the Optional Retirement Program (ORP) in lieu of TRS, and either are expected to work at least 20 hours per week for at least 4 ½ months, or are appointed for at least 50% of a standard full-time appointment for at least 4 ½ months;
- Graduate students who receive compensation for services performed for the institution, work at least 20 hours per week for at least 4 ½ months and are not permitted to be members of TRS because they are solely employed in positions that require enrollment in graduate-level courses;
- Certain non-employed individuals who hold a postdoctoral fellowship, or one or more graduate student fellowships awarded on a competitive basis not valued at less than \$10,000 per year, and receive a stipend from an applicable fellowship; and
- A UT institution may designate an employee who does not meet the criteria above, but who is expected to work at least 30 hours per week for at least 90 days, as full-time for purposes of eligibility for coverage. Please check with your institution's HR or Benefits Office for additional information if you think you may be eligible.

- With respect to dependents:

We do offer coverage. Eligible dependents are:

- An eligible employee's spouse, as defined by applicable state and federal law;
- An eligible employee's children, including stepchildren and adopted children, who are under age 26 regardless of marital status;
- An eligible employee's foster child in a parent-child relationship with the employee;
- An eligible employee's grandchild(ren) under age 26, provided the child meets the requirements which include proof that the employee claims the child as a dependent for federal tax purposes;
- Certain children over age 26 who are determined by the plan to be medically incapacitated and are unable to provide their own support;
- Children for whom the employee is named a legal guardian by a court or who are the subject of a medical support order requiring such coverage; or
- A child for whom a covered member has been named as the custodial parent in a valid gestational agreement.

We do not offer coverage.

- If checked, this coverage meets the minimum value standard, and the cost of this coverage to you is intended to be affordable, based on employee wages.

** Even if your employer intends your coverage to be affordable, you may still be eligible for a premium discount through the Marketplace. The Marketplace will use your household income, along with other factors, to determine whether you may be eligible for a premium discount. If, for example, your wages vary from week to week (perhaps you are an hourly employee or you work on a commission basis), if you are newly employed mid-year, or if you have other income losses, you may still qualify for a premium discount.

If you decide to shop for coverage in the Marketplace, [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) will guide you through the process. Here's the employer information you'll enter when you visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) to find out if you can get a tax credit to lower your monthly premiums.

The information below corresponds to the Marketplace Employer Coverage Tool. Completing this section is optional for employers, but will help ensure employees understand their coverage choices.

13. Is the employee currently eligible for coverage offered by this employer, or will the employee be eligible in the next 3 months?

- Yes** (Continue)
13a. If the employee is not eligible today, including as a result of a waiting or probationary period, when is the employee eligible for coverage? _____ (mm/dd/yyyy) (Continue)
- No** (STOP and return this form to employee)

14. Does the employer offer a health plan that meets the minimum value standard*?

- Yes (Go to question 15) No (STOP and return form to employee)

15. For the lowest-cost plan that meets the minimum value standard* offered only to the employee (don't include family plans): If the employer has wellness programs, provide the premium that the employee would pay if he/ she received the maximum discount for any tobacco cessation programs, and didn't receive any other discounts based on wellness programs.

- a. How much would the employee have to pay in premiums for this plan? \$ _____
b. How often? Weekly Every 2 weeks Twice a month Monthly Quarterly Yearly

If the plan year will end soon and you know that the health plans offered will change, go to question 16. If you don't know, STOP and return form to employee.

16. What change will the employer make for the new plan year? _____

- Employer won't offer health coverage
 Employer will start offering health coverage to employees or change the premium for the lowest-cost plan available only to the employee that meets the minimum value standard.* (Premium should reflect the discount for wellness programs. See question 15.)

- a. How much would the employee have to pay in premiums for this plan? \$ _____
b. How often? Weekly Every 2 weeks Twice a month Monthly Quarterly Yearly

* An employer-sponsored health plan meets the "minimum value standard" if the plan's share of the total allowed benefit costs covered by the plan is no less than 60 percent of such costs. (Section 36B(c)(2)(C)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986)