

## General Notice of Special Enrollment Rights and Preexisting Condition Exclusion

**Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), your group health plan is required to provide you this notice explaining your group health plan's procedures for your special enrollment rights and imposing preexisting condition exclusions.**

- **Your Special Enrollment Rights** – If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance coverage, you may in the future be able to enroll yourself or your dependents in this plan, provided that you request enrollment within 31 days after your other coverage ends. In addition, 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 your dependents, provided that you request enrollment within 31 days after the marriage, birth\*, adoption, or placement for adoption.
- **Preexisting Condition Exclusions** – Under HIPAA, a “preexisting condition” is a condition for which medical advice, diagnosis, care, or treatment was recommended and received within the six-month period ending on the enrollment date in a health plan (the look-back period). Taking prescription medications during the look-back period constitutes receiving treatment.

Your plan may deny benefits for a preexisting condition during a 12-month waiting period beginning on your enrollment date. (If you do not enroll in a timely manner, the maximum waiting period is 12 months from the date coverage begins.) A preexisting condition exclusion does not apply to a pregnancy or to a newborn child or adopted child under age 18 who becomes covered within 31 days of birth\* or adoption. A genetic condition without advice, care, or treatment is not a preexisting condition.

The existence of a preexisting condition will be determined using information obtained relating to an individual's health status before his or her enrollment date. An individual's enrollment date remains the same even if the individual changes benefit package options, as permitted by plan rules.

The preexisting condition waiting period is reduced by any creditable coverage (prior coverage under various plans including, but not limited to, group health plans, individual health policies, Medicare, and Medicaid). You may obtain a certificate of creditable coverage from a prior plan sponsor or health insurance issuer. Should you disagree with the length of creditable coverage determined by TRS-ActiveCare, you have the right to appeal that determination and provide additional evidence of creditable coverage.

For further information, contact your Benefits Administrator.

\*Special rules apply to newborns; refer to your TRS-ActiveCare Benefits Booklet for more information.