



**BlueCross BlueShield  
of Texas**

# Important Notices

## I. Initial Notice About Special Enrollment Rights in Your Group Health Plan

A federal law called Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires that we notify you about very important provisions in the plan. You have the right to enroll in the plan under its “special enrollment provision” without being considered a late enrollee if you acquire a new dependent or if you decline coverage under this plan for yourself or an eligible dependent while other coverage is in effect and later lose that other coverage for certain qualifying reasons. Section I of this notice may not apply to certain self-insured, non-federal governmental plans. Contact your employer or plan administrator for more information.

### A. SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PROVISIONS

**Loss of Other Coverage (Excluding Medicaid or a State Children’s Health Insurance Program)** If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your eligible dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance or group health plan coverage, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage (or if you move out of an HMO service area, or the employer stops contributing toward your or your dependents’ other coverage). However, you must request enrollment within 31 days after your or your dependents’ other coverage ends (or move out of the prior plan’s HMO service area, or after the employer stops contributing toward the other coverage).

#### **Loss of Coverage For Medicaid or a State Children’s Health Insurance Program**

If you decline enrollment for yourself or for an eligible dependent (including your spouse) while Medicaid coverage or coverage under a state children’s health insurance program is in effect, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after your or your dependents’ coverage ends under Medicaid or a state children’s health insurance program.

#### **New Dependent by 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 your dependents in this plan. However, you must request enrollment within 31 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

#### **Eligibility for State Premium Assistance for Enrollees of Medicaid or a State Children’s Health Insurance Program**

If you or your dependents (including your spouse) become eligible for a state premium assistance subsidy from Medicaid or through a state children’s health insurance program with respect to coverage under this plan, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after your or your dependents’ determination of eligibility for such assistance.

**To request special enrollment or obtain more information, call Customer Service at the phone number on the back of your Blue Cross and Blue Shield ID card.**

## II. Additional Notices

Other federal laws require we notify you of additional provisions of your plan.

### **NOTICES OF RIGHT TO DESIGNATE A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER (FOR NON-GRANDFATHERED HEALTH PLANS ONLY)**

#### **For plans that require or allow for the designation of primary care providers by participants or beneficiaries:**

If the plan generally requires or allows the designation of a primary care provider, you have the right to designate any primary care provider who participates in our network and who is available to accept you or your family members. For information on how to select a primary care provider, and for a list of the participating primary care providers, call Customer Service at the phone number on the back of your Blue Cross and Blue Shield ID card.

**For plans that require or allow for the designation of a primary care provider for a child:** For children, you may designate a pediatrician as the primary care provider.

**For plans that provide coverage for obstetric or gynecological care and require the designation by a participant or beneficiary of a primary care provider:** You do not need prior authorization from the plan or from any other person (including a primary care provider) in order to obtain access to obstetrical or gynecological care from a health care professional in our network who specializes in obstetrics or gynecology. The health care professional, however, may be required to comply with certain procedures, including obtaining prior authorization for certain services, following a pre-approved treatment plan, or procedures for making referrals.

**For a list of participating health care professionals who specialize in pediatrics, obstetrics or gynecology, call Customer Service at the phone number on the back of your Blue Cross and Blue Shield ID card.**