

# New Health Insurance Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage

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## PART A: General Information

When key parts of the health care law take effect in 2014, there will be a new way to buy health insurance in California. To assist you as you evaluate options for you and your family, this notice provides some basic information about a new Marketplace called Covered California, and employment-based health coverage offered by your employer.

### What is Covered California?

Covered California can help you find health insurance that meets your needs and fits your budget. Covered California 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 Covered California begins in October 2013 for coverage starting as early as January 1, 2014.

### Can I Save Money on my Health Insurance Premiums in Covered California?

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 Covered California?

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 Covered California 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.<sup>1</sup>

**Note:** If you purchase a health plan through Covered California 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 Covered California 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 (Insert Health Benefit Officer contact information here)

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Covered California can help you evaluate your coverage options, including your eligibility for coverage through Covered California and its cost. Please visit [coveredca.com](http://coveredca.com) or call 888-975-1142 for more information.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 Covered California, you will be asked to provide this information. This information is numbered to correspond to the Covered California application.

|  |          |   |  |
|--|----------|---|--|
| 3. Employer name   |          | 4. Employer Identification Number (EIN) |  |
| 5. Employer address  |          | 6. Employer phone number                |  |
| 7. City  | 8. State | 9. ZIP code                             |  |
| 10. Who can we contact about employee health coverage at this job? |          |   |  |
| 11. Phone number (if different from above)                         |          | 12. Email address                       |  |

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

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

All employees.

Some employees. Eligible employees are:

–Permanent full-time and permanent part-time employees

- With respect to dependents:

We do offer coverage. Eligible dependents are:

–Current spouse/registered domestic partner

–Natural, adopted, step, or registered domestic partner's children up to age 26

–Disabled children of any age if enrolled prior to age 26

–Children up to age 26 for whom the subscriber has assumed a parent-child relationship and is considered the primary care parent

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 Covered California. Covered California 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 Covered California they will guide you through the process. Here's the employer information you'll enter when you visit [Covered California](#) to find out if you can get a tax credit to lower your monthly premiums.

The information below corresponds to the Covered California 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 will the employee have to pay in premiums for that plan? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

b. How often?      Weekly      Every 2 weeks      Twice a month      Monthly      Quarterly      Yearly

Date of change (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

\* 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)