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Date:

RE: HIPAA PORTABILITY NOTIFICATION

Our records show that you are eligible to participate in the company's Group Health Plan (to actually participate, you must complete an enrollment form and pay your share of the premium). A federal law called HIPAA requires that we notify you about some important provisions in the plan.

I. SPECIAL ENROLLMENT RIGHTS

If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your 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 the employer stops contributing towards your or your dependents' other coverage). However, you must request enrollment within **31 calendar days** after your or your dependents' other coverage ends (or after the employer stops contributing toward the other coverage).

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. However, you must request enrollment within **31 calendar days** after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

If you are declining enrollment because you and/or your dependents are covered under a Medicaid plan or State Child Health Plan (CHIP) and that coverage is terminated due to a loss of eligibility, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan. However, you must request enrollment within **60 days** after the date that termination of such coverage occurred and meet certain other important conditions described in the Summary Plan Description.

If you and/or your dependents are determined to be eligible under a state's Medicaid plan or State Child Health Plan (CHIP) for a premium subsidy assistance, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan. However, you must request enrollment within **60 days** of the determination of eligibility for premium subsidy assistance for you or your dependents and meet certain other important conditions as described in the respective Summary Plan Description.

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact *Human Resources at (507) 287-2010.*

II. PRE-EXISTING CONDITION PROVISIONS

This plan imposes a preexisting condition exclusion. This means that if you have a medical condition before coming to our plan, you might have to wait a certain period of time before the plan will provide coverage for that condition. This exclusion applies only to conditions for which medical advice, diagnosis, care, or treatment was recommended or received within a six-month period. Generally, this six-month period ends the day before your coverage becomes effective. However, if you were in a waiting period for coverage, the six-month period ends on the day before the waiting period begins. The preexisting condition exclusion does not apply to pregnancy nor to a child who is under 19 years of age.

This exclusion may last up to 12 months (18 months if you are a late enrollee) from your first day of coverage, or, if you were in a waiting period, from the first day of your waiting period. However, you can reduce the length of this exclusion period by the number of days of your prior ''creditable coverage.'' Most prior health coverage is creditable coverage and can be used to reduce the preexisting condition exclusion if you have not experienced a break in coverage of at least 63 days. To reduce the 12-month (or 18-month) exclusion period by your creditable coverage, you should give us a copy of any certificates of creditable coverage you have. If you do not have a certificate, but you do have prior health coverage, we will help you obtain one from your prior plan or issuer. There are also other ways that you can show you have creditable coverage. Please contact us if you need help demonstrating creditable coverage.

All questions about the preexisting condition exclusion and creditable coverage should be directed to *Human Resources at (507) 287-2010.*