Your Rights Under the Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act

All covered family members must read this notice summarizing your rights under the Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act.

What is the Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act?
The Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act (WHCRA) provides protections for mastectomy patients who choose to have breast reconstruction in connection with a mastectomy. The WHCRA applies only to those group health plans and health insurers that cover benefits for mastectomies; it does not require health plans to pay for mastectomies. But for plans that do provide coverage for mastectomies, the WHCRA requires coverage for reconstruction as well. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the WHCRA is not limited to cancer patients; this law should cover anyone seeking reconstruction after a mastectomy for any reason.

For individuals receiving mastectomy-related benefits, coverage will be provided in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient, for:

1. All stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy was performed;

2. Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance;

3. Prostheses (e.g. breast implant); and

4. Treatment for physical complications of the mastectomy, including lymphedema.

These benefits will be provided subject to the same deductibles and co-insurance applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under this plan.

NOTE: State laws may broaden federal WHCRA rights. Please read your Summary Plan Description, contact human resources, or contact our benefits broker, PSW Benefit Resources at 1-877-866-2623, for complete details on your plan benefits.

More information about the WHCRA may be obtained by calling the Employee Benefits Security Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor toll-free at: 1-866-444-3272.