

Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act Annual Notice

On October 21, 1998 the federal government passed the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998. As part of our plan's compliance with this Act, we are required to provide you with this annual notice outlining the coverage that this law requires our plan to provide.

Our group health plan has always provided coverage for medically-necessary mastectomies. This coverage includes procedures to reconstruct the breast, on which the mastectomy was performed, as well as the cost of necessary prostheses (implants, special bras, etc.) and treatment of any physical complications resulting from any stage of the mastectomy. However, as a result of this federal law, the plan now provides coverage for surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to achieve a symmetrical appearance and any complications that could result from that surgery.

The following benefits must be provided if benefits are provided for a mastectomy:

1. Coverage for reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy is performed.
2. Coverage for surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance with the breast on which the mastectomy is performed.
3. Coverage for prostheses and physical complications resulting from any stage of the mastectomy, including lymph edemas.

These benefits are subject to the same deductible, copayments and coinsurance that apply to mastectomy benefits under the Bismarck Public Schools plan you are enrolled in.