

MNsure Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage: For Employees whose Employers offer health coverage

General Information

When key parts of the health care law known as the Affordable Care Act take effect, there will be a new place to buy health insurance in Minnesota: MNsure. To assist you as you evaluate options for you and your family, this notice provides some basic information about MNsure and employment-based health coverage offered by your employer.

What is MNsure?

MNsure is designed to help you find health insurance that meets your needs and fits your budget. MNsure 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 for health insurance plans sold through MNsure or free or low-cost insurance from Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare. Open enrollment for health insurance coverage through MNsure begins in October 2013 for coverage starting January 1, 2014.

Can I Save Money on my Health Insurance Premiums through MNsure?

Yes. You may qualify to save money and lower or eliminate your monthly premium. You may qualify for a tax credit or MinnesotaCare 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 MNsure?

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 or MinnesotaCare through MNsure 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, a reduction in certain cost-sharing, or MinnesotaCare if your employer does not offer coverage that meets certain standards. If the cost of a plan from your employer for you, the employee only, is more than 9.5% of your household income for the year, or if the coverage does not meet the "minimum value" standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit.¹ If you are seeking help paying costs for health coverage through MNsure, you will need information about the cost and value of your employer coverage to complete an online or paper application. If your employer offers health coverage to you, ask your employer to complete and give you the Health Coverage from Jobs (Appendix A) form. If your employer does not offer coverage to you, you do not need your employer to complete the Health Coverage from Jobs (Appendix A) form.

Note: If you purchase a health plan through MNsure 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 MNsure are made on an after-tax basis.

How Can I Get More Information?

There is help available to you to evaluate your coverage options through MNsure, including your eligibility for coverage through MNsure and its cost. Please visit www.mnsure.org for more information, including an online application for health insurance coverage, or call 1-855-3MNsure (1-855-366-7873).

¹ 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.