

(Employer must check one prior to giving to the qualified beneficiary.)

- You are NOT eligible for continuation coverage. Please refer to Item 1 of the attached notice.
- You are eligible for continuation coverage. Please read instructions below.

Your health insurance coverage will end on the date indicated in Item 2 of the attached notice, unless the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) receives the attached notice postmarked within 60-days of the date of the employer's signature in Item 8 or within 60 days of the date your coverage ends (Item 2), whichever is later.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ELECTING CONTINUATION COVERAGE

- 1. Check box A on the attached *Continuation-Conversion Notice*; date and sign the notice.**
- 2. Complete the enclosed health insurance application unless you are the employee and will be continuing the coverage in effect. If anyone covered under this policy is enrolled in Medicare, you must include a copy of the Medicare ID card.**
- 3. Send this notice and the health insurance application form, if provided, to ETF. A copy will be returned to you as an acknowledgment and per Federal COBRA Law, the health plan will notify you of the due date for premium payments, the address to which payments should be sent, and the grace period for payment. You have the right to pay premium on a monthly basis.**

A. CONTINUATION

Coverage under the group health insurance program will end for you and all other qualified beneficiaries (QBs) on the date entered in Item 2 of the attached notice. A QB is a person losing coverage who was covered on the date of the qualifying event entered in Item 4 of the attached notice. Under Federal Law, known as COBRA, you may continue this coverage. Continuation provides the same coverage you currently have in force and is available, in most cases, for 36 months from the date of occurrence in Item 4. At the end of the 36-month period, you may convert to a non-group policy.

In considering whether to elect continuation coverage, you should take into account that failure to continue your group health coverage will affect your future rights under Federal Law. First, you can lose the right to avoid having pre-existing condition exclusions applied to you by other group health plans if you have more than a 63-day gap in health coverage. Second, you will lose the guaranteed right to purchase individual health insurance policies that do not impose such pre-existing condition exclusions if you do not get continuation coverage for the maximum time available to you. Finally, you have the right under Federal Law to request special enrollment in another group health plan for which you are otherwise eligible (such as a plan sponsored by your spouse's employer) within 30 days after your group health coverage ends because of the qualifying event. You will also have the same special enrollment right at the end of continuation coverage if you get continuation coverage for the maximum time available to you.

You may elect a different health plan at the time continuation is elected if you reside in a county that does not include primary providers in the subscriber's health plan. You may change health plans if you move out of the county, if your health plan ceases to be offered, or during the annual Dual-Choice Enrollment period. Please continue to reference your annual *It's Your Choice* book for additional information concerning your health insurance coverage.

Continuation coverage for you and all other QBs will cease and cannot be reinstated on the earliest of the following: 1) the date coverage ceases because premium is not paid timely; 2) the date your former employer no longer offers any group health coverage; 3) the date you and/or any covered QB become covered under another group health plan after the qualifying event on this application.

(Note: If the replacement group health plan has a pre-existing conditions limitation, you remain eligible for our continuation coverage, but only until the creditable coverage to which you are entitled satisfies the pre-existing condition limitations of your replacement coverage.)

The employee or the employee's spouse can elect continuation coverage on behalf of all of the QBs. A parent may elect to continue coverage on behalf of any dependent children. Each QB affected by this notice (i.e., who is losing coverage) has an independent right to elect coverage. Contact the employer entered on Item 8 of the notice for information about enrolling for individual coverage(s).

The employer must be notified of loss of coverage within 60 days of the event or your right to continue group coverage is lost, except in the case of divorce.

B. CONVERSION

If you wish to convert from group coverage to a non-group policy at this time, check box B, date, sign, and return the notice to ETF. Contact the health plan directly for conversion premium rates. The plan may include a one time conversion access fee. Conversion to a non-group policy may be considerably more expensive and/or provide fewer benefits. You may also have the option to convert to non-group coverage after your continuation coverage period ends. You are responsible for knowing when your group continuation coverage ends, as your health plan does not automatically notify you of termination of coverage. You must contact the health plan directly to make application for conversion coverage. Request for conversion to non-group coverage must be received by the health plan within 30 days after termination of group coverage.

C. EMPLOYEES WITH 20 YEARS SERVICE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO RETIRE

If you have terminated employment and applied for a retirement annuity from the Wisconsin Retirement System, and your annuity effective date is within 30 days of the date you terminated employment, you may continue coverage for as long as you pay premiums timely. You do not need to complete this form. Premiums will be deducted from your monthly annuity, paid from your accumulated sick leave credits (State only) or by your direct payment to the health plan.

If you have 20 years of creditable service and are eligible for an immediate annuity but are not applying at this time, you may continue coverage by checking box C and returning **three** copies to ETF. Your coverage will continue as long as you make your monthly premiums directly to the health plan. If you are now eligible for Medicare, you must fill out the *Medicare Eligibility Statement* form (ET-4307), available from ETF.

D. STATE EMPLOYEES WITH 20 YEARS OF SERVICE WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO RETIRE

If you are an insured state employee who leaves state service, does not take a separation benefit, and has at least 20* years of creditable service when you terminate employment, and are not eligible for an immediate annuity, you are eligible to continue under the state group health plan for an indefinite period of time. To continue coverage, check box D and return **three** copies to ETF. You are required to pay the full premiums; you cannot use sick leave credits to pay your premiums. However, your sick leave will be preserved until you are eligible to retire, at which time it will be converted for your use.

*NOTE: In most cases military service is not creditable until retirement. Therefore, military service credit cannot be used to meet the 20-year requirement. Contact ETF if there are questions about creditable service.

TRANSFERRING EMPLOYEES (State Employees Only)

Do not use this form, if you are transferring from one state agency to another state agency. Instead you must fill out a *Health Insurance Application* (ET-2301) and file it timely with your new employer to ensure continuous group health insurance coverage.

OTHER COVERAGE/MEDICARE

Your continuation coverage is affected by other group health insurance coverage that is effective after the qualifying event on this application and Medicare enrollment. You must notify ETF if you become eligible for other group health insurance coverage or Medicare while your group coverage is continued. You are required to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B when first eligible. You are eligible for reduced premiums (except graduate assistant coverage) upon enrollment in Medicare, as long as Medicare is the primary coverage (i.e. Medicare pays charges first, then the health plan processes the balance).

This notice does not fully describe continuation coverage or other rights under this plan. More information is available in Section B of the *It's Your Choice* book. If you have questions concerning the information in this notice, your rights to coverage or to obtain a copy of the *It's Your Choice* book, contact the employer entered on Item 8 of the notice or ETF at (608) 266-3285 or toll-free at 1-877-533-5020.

Department of Employee Trust Funds
P. O. Box 7931
Madison, WI 53707-7931

CONTINUATION – CONVERSION NOTICE

Group Health Insurance
s. 2201 of Public Law 99-272

Employee Social Security Number	
Employee Name (Last, First)	
Employee's Birthdate: (MM/DD/CCYY)	Group #

Qualified Beneficiary Information:
(To be completed by the Employer)

Qualified Beneficiary Name		
Street and No.		
City	State	Zip Code

- Employee
- Spouse/Former Spouse
- Dependent

TO BE COMPLETED BY QUALIFIED BENEFICIARY

Complete and return this notice ONLY if electing to continue or convert coverage.

Read the instructions on the front before completing this notice. It contains important eligibility and other information concerning your rights and responsibilities. After applying for coverage, if you wish to discontinue coverage, you must submit your request to cancel coverage in writing to the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF). Coverage ends at the end of the month following receipt of your written request by ETF.

CHECK ONE ONLY - Box A, B, C, or D. See the instructions for information which corresponds to the following elections.

A I elect to continue coverage under the group health plan for a maximum of 36 months. I understand the health plan will bill me directly for premiums at the above address. OR

B I elect to convert the group coverage to a non-group policy. (Conversion may be considerably more expensive and/or provide fewer benefits.) If electing this option, I understand I am subject to the health plan's conversion policy provisions. OR

C I have 20 years of creditable service and I am eligible to apply for an immediate annuity but am not applying at this time and want to continue my insurance. OR

D (For State participants only) I have 20 years of creditable service, and am terminating state employment. (If electing this option, the Department of Employee Trust Funds must receive this completed notice by the date shown in Item 2. below.)

DIFFERENT COUNTY: I have elected coverage and I live in a county that does not have a primary physician in the current health plan. I have indicated on the application form (ET-2301 or ET-2302) the health plan to which I am switching.

MEDICARE: Check here if you or anyone on your policy is eligible for Medicare Parts A & B. (See instructions.)

Date (MM/DD/CCYY)	Signature of Qualified Beneficiary	Daytime Telephone ()
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TO BE COMPLETED BY EMPLOYER PRIOR TO GIVING TO THE QUALIFIED BENEFICIARY

EMPLOYER: Federal law requires this notice to be issued to qualified beneficiaries within 5 days after the date in Item 5. Complete the information above and Items 1-8 below. **Refer to the *Group Health Insurance Employer Administration Manual* for further assistance.**

1. Not eligible: (Reason) _____

2. Date applicant/qualified beneficiary's coverage ends: _____

3. Reason for coverage ending (the qualifying event): (check one)

Employment terminated Death

Divorce entered Dependent no longer eligible (reason) _____

Other _____

4. Date of occurrence in Item 3: _____

5. Date employer notified of occurrence in Item 3: _____

6. Coverage in effect at time of occurrence in Item 3: Single Family

7.	Name of Health Plan	Monthly Premium Rate: \$		
8.	Completed By	Date Notice Provided (MM/DD/CCYY)	Employer Name	Telephone ()

FOR EMPLOYEE TRUST FUNDS USE

New Group Number	Continued Coverage Effective		By	Date (MM/DD/CCYY)
	From (MM/DD/CCYY)	Through (MM/DD/CCYY)		
Telephone: 608-264-7900				

Employer: Make a copy for your records and send original to Qualified Beneficiary.