



**Benefit Services**

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October 12, 2022

Dear NMSU Retiree,

New Mexico State University provides eligible retirees with medical/prescription, dental, vision, and/or life insurance benefits. This letter serves as your annual notice of plan and premium changes for the upcoming plan year and PPO plan notification of creditable coverage. Please refer to the Benefit Services website for rate sheets, summaries of benefits, and forms at <https://benefits.nmsu.edu/hr-benefits/retire1/retiree-benefits.html>.

**Informational Webinar**

We will hold an informational webinar via Zoom on **November 7, 2022 at 3:00 pm MST**. The link to join is <https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/98560478730>.

**Retiree Health Plans**

The retiree health plan is a fully insured plan offered through Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Mexico (BCBSNM). Premiums are determined by the claims that are paid on behalf of participants each year by BCBSNM. The NMSU retiree health plan has seen a significant increase in claims over the past two years. The addition of the voluntary dental and vision benefits to our retiree health options provides a **1.5% premium bundling discount** for the retiree health plans. This discount will continue and there will be a **slight decrease** to our dental premiums and **no increase** to our vision premiums. The Prescription PDP plan offered along with the Medigap plan will have no increase to the Medicare prescription drug plan.

To further reduce the premium increase, the university, with support from the Employee Council Insurance Committee, has agreed to the PPO plan changes listed below. In addition, they agreed to offset a portion of the increase from the Medicare plan to the PPO. Resulting in a lower premium increase of **11.3%** for the PPO plan and **8.7%** for the Medigap plan effective **January 1, 2023**.

For retirees under age 70, the university pays 60% of the total monthly premium; at age 70, the university pays 30% of the total monthly premium.

**Based on your current benefit elections, your portion of the monthly premiums for 2023 are:**

Health Code:		Current Health Rate:			
Member	Plan Type	2023 New Health Rate	Dental Rate	Vision Rate	Life Rate
Retiree					
Spouse					

**PPO changes effective January 1, 2023:**

<b>Change to:</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023 Renewal</b>
In-Network Deductible	\$1,000/\$3,000	\$1,250/\$3,750
Outpatient Facility/physician	Deductible and coinsurance	Adding a \$300 copay per procedure and then deductible and coinsurance
Emergency Room visit	Deductible and coinsurance	Adding a \$250 copay per emergency room visit and then deductible and coinsurance
Inpatient Hospital	Deductible and coinsurance	Adding a \$300 copay per admit and then deductible and coinsurance

**Creditable Coverage**

The prescription drug coverage offered by the NMSU Blue Cross Blue Shield NM PPO retiree health insurance is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage. Because your existing coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan. Please visit our website to view or print the complete Creditable Coverage Disclosure notice for the NMSU retiree health insurance plan. **If you or your covered dependent becomes Medicare eligible before age 65, enroll in Medicare Part A and B, and contact Benefit Services immediately. All PPO members who become Medicare eligible prior to age 65 must transition to the NMSU Medigap plan to continue coverage through NMSU.**

**Important Information for participants reaching Medicare Eligibility**

Retirees and/or dependents reaching age 65, or becoming Medicare eligible for any reason, must enroll in Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B to remain eligible for NMSU medical/prescription coverage.

- The Medicare eligible participant must provide NMSU Benefit Services with a copy of the Medicare Part A & B card no later than the *1st of the month before* they become Medicare eligible.
- Plan and rate changes will be effective the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month in which they become Medicare eligible.

**Cancelling Coverage**

PPO participants can drop coverage at any time, however; once you cancel participation, you cannot re-enroll. Once your dependent child has lost eligibility due to age, you will have the opportunity for that dependent to continue coverage through COBRA. If you voluntarily cancel coverage for a dependent, COBRA will not be offered.

**Medigap Plan G:**

- The Medigap Plan G will continue to cover your Part A (hospital) deductible.
- The annual deductible for Part B (outpatient) services for 2022 is **\$233**. The 2023 deductible for Part B has not been announced yet by CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services).
- Once the deductible has been met each calendar year, Medicare will generally cover 80% of the Part B (outpatient) medical services and BCBSNM will pay the remainder of Medicare's allowable.

If at any time you enroll in another Medicare Part D product, CMS will notify NMSU to cancel your coverage through NMSU. NMSU will cancel you from both the medical and prescription programs. Once cancelled you cannot re-enroll. You may also drop coverage during the Medicare Open Enrollment each year in October-December. Forms must be received by December 15th and coverage will end December 31st.

**\*\*Dental and Vision Benefits Open Enrollment\*\***

Dental and Vision open enrollment will be from October 15 through November 15, 2022. You may only enroll or disenroll during the Open enrollment period, unless a change in status qualifies for a Special Enrollment (marriage, birth of child, divorce). If you decline enrollment or disenroll from either the dental or the vision coverage, you must wait 4 years before you can enroll during the subsequent Open Enrollment.

**NMSU Retiree Life Insurance Plan:**

There are no changes to the Retiree Life Insurance Plan. You can print out your certificate of coverage from the NMSU benefits website.

**Your current life insurance policy:**

Coverage Amount	
Primary Beneficiary	
Contingent Beneficiary	
If you wish to update your beneficiary information, submit a Beneficiary Designation Form available at the Benefit Services website.	

**Insurance premium payments:**

Account #	Your method of payment is:
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You are responsible for ensuring all payments due are paid by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Failure to pay monthly premiums will result in cancellation of coverage. A \$25.00 Returned Item Penalty fee will be charged for any payments rejected by your bank.

You will not receive an invoice, if you elect to pay by mail, include “Retiree payment” and your account number on your payment, and send it directly to:

University Accounts Receivable  
PO Box 30001, MSC 3UAR  
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001  
Or call 575-646-3927

**Keep your contact information current**

NMSU Benefit Services communicates with retirees through the US Postal Service and occasionally by phone or email. Keep your contact information up-to-date with NMSU Benefit Services. Please contact us immediately if you have a change in address, phone number, or email address.

If you have questions regarding NMSU retiree benefits or would like to update your information, please contact NMSU Benefit Services at 575-646-8000 or [benefits@nmsu.edu](mailto:benefits@nmsu.edu).

Sincerely,



Celeste Uzueta  
Director, Benefit Services