

## To: Holston Conference Medicare Supplement Plan C “Medigap” Participants (Retirees, Covered Spouses, Surviving Spouses) & Individuals Covered By Our “Early Retiree” Health Plan

Prompted by the new Medicare regulations effective January 1, 2020, which prohibit us from offering Medigap Plan C to newly eligible participants, the Board of Pensions reviewed all of the options available and selected a plan that keeps everyone on the same plan and benefits you the most.

After careful consideration, **the board voted to move all of our Medigap Plan C participants to Medigap Plan D, a plan that will LOWER YOUR MONTHLY PREMIUM!** As part of this change, you will be responsible for meeting the annual deductible for Part B Medicare each year; but, in 2019, this deductible was only \$185...so, **the money you will save on the reduced monthly premium will cover the deductible. Plus, your coverage and group/ID number remain exactly the same!**

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?

- ▶ **Your Monthly Premium Will Decrease:**
  - \$47 per person for retirees and covered spouses for \$564 in annual savings
  - \$23.50 for surviving spouses (who pay half the premium) for \$282 in annual savings
- ▶ **Each Covered Participant Will Need to Meet the Medicare Part B 2020 Annual Deductible**
  - Medicare has not announced the 2020 Part B deductible yet
  - Expected to be less than \$200 (was \$185 in 2019)
- ▶ **Nothing else about your coverage will change!**
  - Same excellent coverage as before (see back of this page)
  - Plan D covers everything Plan C covered - the only differences are the lower price and the Part B deductible
- ▶ **Same ID Number/New ID Card**
  - Your Medigap Group (139876) and ID Number remains the same
  - You will receive a **NEW ID CARD in December** that will say “Plan D” rather than “Plan C”
  - **Do not use your new Plan D Medigap (139876) ID Card until January 1, 2020**
- ▶ **Dental/Vision Card and Number Stays the Same**
  - Continue to use your current Dental/Vision Card in 2020
  - Please do not destroy your card that says “Group 88662” – use this card for your dental/vision visits
- ▶ **This Does NOT Affect Your PART D Prescription Drug Coverage**
  - This change **ONLY** affects your Medigap/Medicare Supplement PLAN C

### EARLY RETIREE HEALTH PLAN

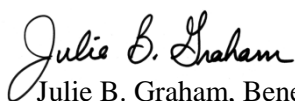
- ▶ **Early Retiree Health Plan Premium to Increase Approximately 7%**
  - Healthcare costs continue to rise; we have not had a rate increase since January 2018
  - Early Retirees should receive a mailing within the next two weeks with your new rate
  - If you don't get a notice with your new rate, email [juliegraham@holston.org](mailto:juliegraham@holston.org) or call 865-293-4136

### VISION ENROLLMENT

- ▶ **To Drop or Add Vision Coverage, PLEASE RETURN THE ENCLOSED FORM BY NOVEMBER 15, 2019**

### QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

- ▶ **Email me at [juliegraham@holston.org](mailto:juliegraham@holston.org) or call me at 865-293-4136**
- ▶ **For Blue Cross Blue Shield Medigap Claims Questions call 1-888-341-2583**

  
Julie B. Graham, Benefits Administrator

October 20, 2019

## Plan C and Plan D Comparison

Here's a quick glance at the differences between Medigap/Medicare Supplement Plan C (which is what you currently have) and Medigap/Medicare Supplement Plan D (which you will have as of January 1, 2020).

As you can see, the only difference is that each participant will now need to meet the annual deductible for Part B (which was \$185 in 2019 and has not been announced for 2020 yet).

**The decrease in your monthly premium (\$47 for retirees and covered spouses; \$23.50 for surviving spouses, who pay half the monthly premium) will cover the deductible amount.**

Medicare Supplement Benefits	Plan D	Plan C
Part A co-insurance and hospital costs	X	X
Part B co-insurance or co-payment	X	X
First 3 pints of blood	X	X
Part A hospice care co-insurance or co-payment	X	X
Co-insurance for skilled nursing facility	X	X
Medicare Part A deductible	X	X
Medicare Part B deductible*		X
Foreign Travel Emergency	80%	80%

\*Was \$185 in 2019. The IRS has not released the 2020 deductible at this time.

