

## MEDICARE ELIGIBILITY



# Employee Guide: Qualifying Life Change

## Active Employee Gaining Medicare Eligibility

The following guide outlines [permissible changes](#) to benefit elections and [how to make](#) them when an active employee gains Medicare eligibility.

Medicare eligibility usually occurs when employee turns 65. Employee and dependents **may continue in their same health benefits regardless of age** as long as employee continues to be in a regular (non-temporary), benefits-eligible position.

- Employee will be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) and **will not** incur Medicare late enrollment penalties when they leave CU if they were continuously covered under a CU Health plan.
- If employee enrolls or is enrolled in Medicare Part A (hospitalization coverage), CU coverage will be the primary insurance and Medicare will be secondary. If employee is drawing Social Security benefits, Medicare will automatically enroll employee in Medicare Part A.
- If employee enrolls in Medicare Part A and B, CU coverage will be secondary to Medicare.
- If employee is contributing to a Health Savings Account (HSA) and enrolls in Medicare, they must stop contributing to their HSA to avoid IRS penalties.

## Permissible changes

When gaining Medicare coverage, an employee can make certain changes to their benefit elections. These changes must be made within **31 days** from the date of the life change and must be [consistent](#) and correspond with gain of Medicare coverage.

CU Health Plans medical, dental, vision	Optional Life Insurance	Voluntary AD&D	Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) Health Care Dependent Care
changes permissible	changes permissible	limited changes	changes permissible

Some benefits are not subject to QLC regulations, now is a good time to consider changes to [other benefits](#).

## Plan resources

[Rates](#)

[Benefits Website](#)

[Medicare](#)

## CU Health Plans: medical, dental, vision

	Enroll?	Cancel?	Change plans?
Employee Spouse/partner Children	The employee and dependents can continue current coverage. If employee/dependents currently do not have coverage they may not enroll. They must wait until the next Open Enrollment period	The employee can cancel current coverage with proof of <a href="#">gain of coverage</a> of Medicare Part A, B or D (not C). Effective date is the date of Medicare enrollment date.	Employee cannot switch plans until the next Open Enrollment.

## Optional Life Insurance

	Enroll?	Cancel or decrease?
<b>Employee</b>	Employee can enroll or increase at any time of the year. To <a href="#">apply</a> for additional amount (max \$1 million) employee must submit the Medical History Statement form, as evidence of insurability, to the Standard Insurance Co for approval*.	Any policy can be decreased or canceled any time. Effective that month if the Benefits Enrollment/ Change Form is received by the tenth of the month, otherwise it is effective the first of the following month.
<b>Spouse/partner</b>	Employee can enroll or increase a spouse/partner at any time of the year. To <a href="#">apply</a> for additional amount (max \$500,000) they must submit the Medical History Statement form, as evidence of insurability, to the Standard Insurance Co for approval*.	
<b>Children (all)</b>	The employee cannot enroll or increase amount for themselves or their dependents. They must wait until Open Enrollment.	

Beneficiaries can be changed at any time by going to the [employee portal](#).

\*Effective date of policy is the date of approval by The Standard however, premiums are effective the first of the month following the approval date.

## Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D)

	Enroll?	Cancel or decrease?
<b>Employee Spouse/partner Children</b>	The employee cannot enroll or increase amount for themselves or their dependents. They must wait until Open Enrollment.	Any policy can be decreased or canceled any time. Effective that month if the Benefits Enrollment/ Change Form is received by the tenth of the month, otherwise it is effective the first of the following month.

Beneficiaries can be changed at any time by going to the [employee portal](#).

## Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA)

Health Care Flexible Spending Account HCFSA	Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account DCFSA
<p>The employee can decrease the election, within plan guidelines, to reflect gain of Medicare coverage. In no event can a new election be reduced to an amount that is less than the expenses incurred prior to the new election date.</p> <p>Effective date is the first of the month following the receipt of Benefits Enrollment/Change Form.</p>	<p>The employee cannot enroll or change elections unless there is a secondary Dependent Care Status Change event.</p>

## How to make changes

The employee has **31 days** from the date of gain of Medicare eligibility to make changes by submitting the required documentation to Employee Services.

## How to CANCEL coverage for employee, spouse/partner and dependent children

1. **Submit** the appropriate benefits enrollment/change form:  
[Benefits Enrollment/Change form Faculty, Officers, University Staff](#)  
[Benefits Enrollment/Change form Classified Staff](#)
2. **Submit** document showing proof of gain of Medicare Part A, B or D (not C)

## Payroll deductions

If canceling or removing dependent coverage and expecting a reduction in cost of monthly premiums, employee must submit all documentation by the tenth of the month in which the change would take effect. If documentation is received after the tenth of the month, premium adjustments will be reflected in the next payroll cycle.

## Submission instructions

Send forms and documents via secured fax or unsecured email, regular mail or in person:

Fax: 303.860.4299 (secured)

Email: [benefits@cu.edu](mailto:benefits@cu.edu) (unsecured)

Employee Services: 1800 Grant St. suite 400, Denver, CO 80203

Employees can check their Benefits Summary in their [employee portal](#), to ensure enrollment accuracy after forms are processed.

## Questions?

Benefits Office:

Monday - Friday

8:00 am to 5:00 pm

**303-860-4200, option 3**

## Other benefits to consider (Not subject to QLC requirements)

During the course of a Life Change, there are other benefit changes to consider that are not subject to Qualifying Life Changes. The following changes can be made at any time during the plan year:

### HSA – Health Savings Account

The employee can enroll, increase, decrease or cancel at any time during the year without a Qualifying Life Change. The employee must be enrolled on the CU Health Plan – High Deductible in order to open and contribute to the HSA offered by CU. Contributions cannot be made to both the HCFSA and the HSA at the same time. Please see the [HSA Fact Sheet](#) for more detailed information.

- Effective date Via Form: Effective that month if form is received by the tenth of the month, otherwise it will be the first of the following month.
- Effective date via Self-Service-Portal: Effective that month, if enrolled online before that month's payroll processing. Employee must call a [benefits professional](#) to activate online enrollment.

### Optional Life Insurance

The employee can enroll in or increase, at any time, in Optional Life Insurance:

1. **Complete and sign** the evidence of insurability (EOI)\*  
[Medical History Statement Faculty and University Staff](#)  
[Medical History Statement Classified Staff](#)
2. **Submit Form**  
 The Standard Insurance Company  
 Medical Underwriting  
 900 SW Fifth Avenue  
 Portland OR 97204
3. **Approval**
  - a. The Standard will notify the applicant and the University when application is approved.
    - i. Effective date of the policy is the date of approval by The Standard.
    - ii. Premiums are effective the first day of the month following the approval date.
  - b. The University will notify the applicant when approval is received. At that time the applicant will designate beneficiaries and indicate tobacco usage via the provided form.

**Cancellations:** The employee can decrease or revoke personal and dependent Optional Life Insurance any time during the plan year by submitting the appropriate Benefits Enrollment/Change Form:

[Benefits Enrollment/Change form Faculty, Officers, University Staff](#)  
[Benefits Enrollment/Change form Classified Staff](#)

\*EOI: By signing the [Medical History Statement](#), the applicant is authorizing the Standard Insurance Company to obtain information about the applicant's health, undergo a physical examination, if required, which may include blood testing, and provide any additional information about the applicant's insurability that The Standard may reasonably require.

### Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D)

Voluntary AD&D can only be added during Open Enrollment and certain Qualifying Life Changes. However, employees can cancel AD&D any time during the plan year by submitting the appropriate Benefits Enrollment/Change Form:

[Benefits Enrollment/Change form Faculty, Officers, University Staff](#)  
[Benefits Enrollment/Change form Classified Staff](#)

## Short Term Disability

### Faculty and University Staff:

Employees can cancel any time during the plan year by submitting the [Benefits Enrollment/Change form Faculty, Officers, University Staff](#). Effective date for cancellation is that month if the benefits enrollment/change form is received by the tenth of the month, otherwise it will be the first of the following month. The employee can enroll only during Open Enrollment.

**Classified Staff:** N/A (Must continue enrollment since it is mandatory and paid by CU)

## Long Term Disability

**Faculty and University Staff:** N/A (Must continue enrollment since it is mandatory and paid by CU).

### Classified Staff:

- The employee can enroll at any time during the year with a [Medical History Statement Classified Staff](#) approved by The Standard Insurance Company. Effective date is the first of the month following approval of The Standard Insurance Company.
- Premiums are based on employee's age, salary and vesting status with PERA.
- Employee can request change of premiums at any time during the year or when he/she becomes vested with PERA (five years of PERA service). Employee must submit Benefits Enrollment/Change and proof of vesting status (if status was gained outside CU's employment). Effective that month if form is received by the tenth of the month, otherwise it will be the first of the following month.
- The employee can change to Vested status anytime during the plan year.
- The employee can cancel any time during the plan year. Effective date for cancellation is that month if the [Benefits Enrollment/Change form Classified Staff](#) is received by the tenth of the month, otherwise it will be the first of the following month.

## Definitions

**Consistency Rule:** Under the Consistency Rule, the election change is on account of and corresponds with the Qualifying Life Change that affects eligibility for coverage under an employer's plan. Changes to benefit plans must be consistent with the Qualifying Life Change, and correspond with a gain or loss of eligibility for coverage.

**Evidence of Insurability (EOI):** This means an applicant must submit the [Medical History Statement Faculty/University Staff](#) or [Medical History Statement Classified Staff](#) to The Standard Insurance Co, authorizing to obtain information about the applicant's health, undergo a physical examination which may include blood testing or any other information about the applicant's insurability reasonably required. Effective date of policy is the date of approval by The Standard however, premiums are effective the first of the month following the approval date.

**Gain of Group Coverage:** When canceling CU coverage, CU requires proof that employee and/or dependents have or will have coverage. We require a letter or other document from dependent's employer or insurer stating:

- Who are individuals that gained group coverage
- When is the effective date of group coverage
- What types of plans were gained, specifically medical, and dental and/or vision.