

Your Rights Under the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998

On October 21, 1998, the federal government passed the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998. One of the provisions of this act requires group health plans to notify health plan members of their rights under this law.

What benefits does the law guarantee?

Under this law, group health plans that provide medical and surgical benefits in connection with a mastectomy **must** provide benefits for certain reconstructive surgery. This includes:

- ◆ Reconstruction of the breast on which a mastectomy has been performed;
- ◆ Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance; and
- ◆ Prostheses and treatment of physical complications in all states of mastectomy, including lymphedemas.

The law also states that "the services will be considered in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient." In other words, you and your physician will determine the most appropriate treatment for your individual situation.

Coverage of these services is subject to the terms and conditions of your health plan, including your plan's normal copayment, annual deductibles, and coinsurance provisions.

For more information...

If you have any questions regarding your benefits or rights under this Act, call the medical plan in which you are enrolled through the Retirement System or contact the Retirement System by calling (314) 534-7444, extension 3011.