

WAC 182-12-133 What options for continuation coverage are available to employees and their dependents during certain types of leave or when employment ends due to a layoff? Employees who have established eligibility for public employees benefits board (PEBB) benefits as described in WAC 182-12-114 may continue coverage for themselves and their dependents during certain types of leave or when their employment ends due to a layoff.

(1) Employees who are no longer eligible for the employer contribution toward PEBB benefits due to an event described in (b)(i) through (vi) of this subsection may continue PEBB benefits by self-paying the premium and applicable premium surcharges set by the health care authority (HCA) from the date eligibility for the employer contribution is lost:

(a) Employees may continue any combination of medical, dental, life insurance, and accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance; however, only employees on approved educational leave or called in to active duty in the uniformed services as defined under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) may continue either basic or both basic and supplemental long-term disability (LTD) insurance.

(b) Employees in the following circumstances who lose their eligibility for the employer contribution toward PEBB benefits qualify to continue coverage under this subsection:

(i) Employees who are on authorized leave without pay;

(ii) Employees who are on approved educational leave;

(iii) Employees who are receiving time-loss benefits under workers' compensation;

(iv) Employees who are called to active duty in the uniformed services as defined under USERRA;

(v) Employees whose employment ends due to a layoff as defined in WAC 182-12-109; and

(vi) Employees who are applying for disability retirement.

(c) The employee's election must be received by the PEBB program no later than sixty days from the date the employee's PEBB health plan coverage ended or from the postmark date on the election notice sent by the PEBB program, whichever is later;

(d) Employees may self-pay for a maximum of twenty-nine months. The employee's first premium payment and applicable premium surcharges are due no later than forty-five days after the election period ends as described in (c) of this subsection.

Premiums and applicable premium surcharges associated with continuing PEBB medical, must be made to the HCA as well as premiums associated with continuing PEBB dental or LTD insurance coverage. Premiums associated with continuing life insurance and AD&D insurance coverage must be made to the contracted vendor. Following the employee's first premium payment, the employee must pay the premium amounts for PEBB insurance coverage and applicable premium surcharges as premiums become due; and

(e) If the employee's monthly premium or applicable premium surcharges remain unpaid for sixty days from the original due date, the employee's PEBB insurance coverage will be terminated retroactive to the last day of the month for which the monthly premium and applicable premium surcharges were paid as described in WAC 182-08-180 (1)(c).

(2) The number of months that employees self-pay the premium while eligible as described in subsection (1) of this section will count toward the total months of continuation coverage allowed under the federal Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA).

Employees who are no longer eligible for continuation coverage as described in subsection (1) of this section but who have not used the maximum number of months allowed under COBRA coverage may continue medical, dental, or both for the remaining difference in months by self-paying the premium and applicable premium surcharges as described in WAC 182-12-146.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160, and PEBB policy resolutions. WSR 19-17-073 (Admin #2019-01), § 182-12-133, filed 8/20/19, effective 1/1/20; WSR 18-20-117 (Admin #2018-02), § 182-12-133, filed 10/3/18, effective 1/1/19; WSR 17-19-077 (Order 2017-01), § 182-12-133, filed 9/15/17, effective 1/1/18. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160, 2016 c 67, and PEBB policy resolutions. WSR 16-20-080, § 182-12-133, filed 10/4/16, effective 1/1/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160, 2015 c 116, and PEBB policy resolutions. WSR 15-22-099 (PEBB Admin # 2015-01 Rev 1), § 182-12-133, filed 11/4/15, effective 1/1/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160 and 2012 2nd sp.s. c 3. WSR 13-22-019 (Admin. 2013-01), § 182-12-133, filed 10/28/13, effective 1/1/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160. WSR 12-20-022 (Order 2012-01), § 182-12-133, filed 9/25/12, effective 11/1/12; WSR 10-20-147 (Order 10-02), § 182-12-133, filed 10/6/10, effective 1/1/11; WSR 09-23-102 (Order 09-02), § 182-12-133, filed 11/17/09, effective 1/1/10; WSR 08-20-128 (Order 08-03), § 182-12-133, filed 10/1/08, effective 1/1/09; WSR 07-20-129 (Order 07-01), § 182-12-133, filed 10/3/07, effective 11/3/07; WSR 06-11-156 (Order 06-02), § 182-12-133, filed 5/24/06, effective 6/24/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160 and 41.05.165. WSR 04-18-039, § 182-12-133, filed 8/26/04, effective 1/1/05.]