

WAC 182-12-265 What options for continuing health plan enrollment are available to a surviving spouse, state registered domestic partner, or child, if an employee, a school employee, or a retiree dies? The survivor of an eligible employee, an eligible school employee, or a retiree who meets the eligibility criteria and submits the required forms as described in subsection (1), (2), or (3) of this section is eligible to enroll or defer enrollment as a survivor under public employees benefits board (PEBB) retiree insurance coverage. If enrolling in PEBB retiree insurance coverage, the survivor's first premium payment and applicable premium surcharges are due to the health care authority (HCA) no later than 45 days after the election period ends as described in subsection (1), (2), or (3) of this section, except as described in WAC 182-08-180 (1)(a). Following the survivor's first premium payment, premiums and applicable premium surcharges must be paid as described in WAC 182-08-180 (1)(c).

(1) An employee's spouse, state registered domestic partner, or child who loses eligibility due to the death of an eligible employee may enroll or defer enrollment as a survivor under PEBB retiree insurance coverage provided they immediately begin receiving a monthly retirement benefit from any state of Washington sponsored retirement system. To satisfy the requirement to immediately receive a monthly retirement benefit they must begin receiving monthly benefit payments no later than 120 days from the date of death of the employee. The required forms to enroll or defer enrollment must be received by the PEBB program no later than 60 days after the later of the date of the employee's death or the date the survivor's PEBB insurance coverage ends.

Note: Enrollment in the PEBB program's medicare advantage (MA) plan, medicare advantage-prescription drug (MA-PD) plan, or the Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) Classic medicare plan may not be retroactive.

(1) If a subscriber elects to enroll in a MA plan, and the required forms are received by the PEBB program after the date the PEBB retiree insurance coverage is to begin, the subscriber and their enrolled dependents will be enrolled in a plan with the same contracted vendor during the gap month(s) prior to when the MA coverage begins.

(2) If a subscriber elects to enroll in a MA-PD plan, and the required forms are received by the PEBB program after the date the PEBB retiree insurance coverage is to begin, the subscriber and their enrolled dependents will be enrolled in transitional coverage as designated by the director or designee during the gap month(s) prior to when the MA-PD coverage begins.

(3) If a subscriber elects to enroll in the UMP Classic medicare plan, and the required forms are received by the PEBB program after the date the PEBB retiree insurance coverage is to begin, the subscriber and their enrolled dependents will be enrolled in transitional UMP coverage during the gap month(s) prior to when the UMP Classic medicare plan begins.

(a) The employee's spouse or state registered domestic partner may continue health plan enrollment until death.

(b) The employee's children may continue health plan enrollment until they lose eligibility as described in WAC 182-12-260.

Notes: If a spouse, state registered domestic partner, or child of an eligible employee is not eligible for a monthly retirement benefit, they are not eligible to enroll as a survivor under PEBB retiree insurance coverage. However, they may continue health plan enrollment as described in WAC 182-12-146.

Eligibility for continued enrollment in PEBB retiree insurance coverage for the surviving spouse, surviving state registered domestic partner, or surviving child of an employee of a PEBB participating employer group will cease at the end of the month in which the group's contract with the authority ends. Any survivor who loses eligibility for this reason may continue health plan enrollment as described in WAC 182-12-232.

Eligibility for the surviving spouse, surviving state registered domestic partner, or surviving child of an elected and full-time appointed official of the legislative and executive branches of state government is described in WAC 182-12-180.

(2) A retiree's spouse, state registered domestic partner, or child who loses eligibility due to the death of an eligible retiree may enroll or defer enrollment as a survivor under PEBB retiree insurance coverage as described in (a) through (d) of this subsection.

(a) The retiree's spouse or state registered domestic partner may continue health plan enrollment until death.

(b) The retiree's children may continue health plan enrollment until they lose eligibility as described in WAC 182-12-260.

(c) If a spouse, state registered domestic partner, or child of an eligible retiree is enrolled in a PEBB health plan at the time of

the retiree's death, the survivors will be enrolled in the same PEBB health plan coverage they were enrolled in effective the first day of the month in which the retiree's death occurred. Eligible survivors may continue PEBB health plan coverage as described in (a) and (b) of this subsection. An eligible survivor may make changes to their PEBB health plan coverage or defer enrollment by submitting the required forms to the PEBB program. The required forms must be received no later than 60 days after the retiree's death. Changes in PEBB health plan coverage will be effective the first day of the month following the date of the retiree's death.

(d) If a spouse, state registered domestic partner, or child of an eligible retiree is not enrolled in a PEBB health plan at the time of the retiree's death, the survivor is eligible to enroll or defer enrollment as a survivor under PEBB retiree insurance coverage. The required forms to enroll or defer enrollment must be received by the PEBB program no later than 60 days after the retiree's death. For a survivor to enroll in a PEBB health plan who is not enrolled due to the retiree electing to defer enrollment in PEBB retiree insurance coverage as described in WAC 182-12-200 or 182-12-205 (3)(a) through (e), the survivor must also provide evidence of continuous enrollment in one or more qualifying coverages as described in WAC 182-12-205 (3)(a) through (e) from the most recent open enrollment for which the survivor was not enrolled in a PEBB medical plan prior to the retiree's death. A gap of 31 days or less is allowed between the date PEBB retiree insurance coverage was deferred and the start date of a qualifying coverage, and between each period of enrollment in qualifying coverages during the deferral period. If a retiree elected to defer enrollment in PEBB retiree insurance coverage as described in WAC 182-12-205 (3)(f), the survivor must provide proof of enrollment in medicare parts A and B; evidence of continuous enrollment in a qualified coverage is waived as described in WAC 182-12-205 (6)(f).

Note: Eligibility for continued enrollment in PEBB retiree insurance coverage for the surviving spouse, surviving state registered domestic partner, or surviving child of an employer group retiree will cease at the end of the month in which the group's contract with the authority ends. Any survivor who loses eligibility for this reason may continue health plan enrollment as described in WAC 182-12-232.

(3) A school employee's spouse, state registered domestic partner, or child who loses eligibility due to the death of an eligible school employee may enroll or defer enrollment as a survivor under PEBB retiree insurance coverage at the time of the school employee's death, provided the employee died on or after October 1, 1993. The survivor must immediately begin receiving a retirement benefit allowance under chapter 41.32, 41.35 or 41.40 RCW. The required forms to enroll or defer enrollment must be received by the PEBB program no later than 60 days after the later of the date of the school employee's death or the date the survivor's school employees benefits board (SEBB) insurance coverage ends.

Note: Enrollment in the PEBB program's MA plan, MA-PD plan, or the UMP Classic medicare plan may not be retroactive.

(1) If a subscriber elects to enroll in a MA plan, and the required forms are received by the PEBB program after the date the PEBB retiree insurance coverage is to begin, the subscriber and their enrolled dependents will be enrolled in a plan with the same contracted vendor during the gap month(s) prior to when the MA coverage begins.

(2) If a subscriber elects to enroll in a MA-PD plan, and the required forms are received by the PEBB program after the date the PEBB retiree insurance coverage is to begin, the subscriber and their enrolled dependents will be enrolled in transitional coverage as designated by the director or designee during the gap month(s) prior to when the MA-PD coverage begins.

(3) If a subscriber elects to enroll in the UMP Classic medicare plan, and the required forms are received by the PEBB program after the date the PEBB retiree insurance coverage is to begin, the subscriber and their enrolled dependents will be enrolled in transitional UMP coverage during the gap month(s) prior to when the UMP Classic medicare plan begins.

(a) The school employee's spouse or state registered domestic partner may continue health plan enrollment until death.

(b) The school employee's children may continue health plan enrollment until they lose eligibility as described in WAC 182-12-260.

Notes: If a spouse, state registered domestic partner, or child of an eligible school employee is not eligible for a retirement benefit allowance, they are not eligible to enroll as a survivor under PEBB retiree insurance coverage. However, a spouse, state registered domestic partner, or child of an eligible school employee enrolled in SEBB insurance coverage may continue health plan enrollment as described in WAC 182-31-090.

Eligibility for continued enrollment in PEBB retiree insurance coverage for the surviving spouse, surviving state registered domestic partner, or surviving child of a school employee of a SEBB participating employer group will cease at the end of the month in which the group's contract with the authority ends. Any survivor who loses eligibility for this reason may continue health plan enrollment as described in WAC 182-12-232.

(4) If premiums and applicable premium surcharges received by the HCA are sufficient as described in WAC 182-08-180 (1)(d)(ii) to maintain PEBB health plan enrollment after the employee, school employee, or retiree's death, the PEBB program will consider the payment as notice of the survivor's intent to continue enrollment.

If the survivor's enrollment ended due to the death of the employee, school employee, or retiree, the PEBB program will reinstate the survivor's enrollment without a gap subject to payment of premium and applicable premium surcharges.

(5) If a survivor elects to enroll a dependent in PEBB health plan coverage, the dependent must be enrolled in the same PEBB medical and PEBB dental plan as the survivor.

Exceptions: (1) If a survivor selects a medicare supplement plan, a MA-PD plan, or the UMP Classic medicare plan, nonmedicare enrollees will be enrolled in the UMP Classic. If a survivor selects any other medicare plan, they must also select a nonmedicare plan with the same contracted vendor available to nonmedicare enrollees.

(2) If a survivor selects a medicare supplement plan, MA-PD plan, or any other medicare plan, they may elect a PEBB vision plan available for any nonmedicare enrollees.

(6) A nonmedicare survivor must enroll in PEBB medical to be able to enroll in PEBB dental, in PEBB vision, or in both PEBB dental and PEBB vision. Any nonmedicare dependents they elect to enroll must be enrolled in the same PEBB medical, PEBB dental, and PEBB vision plan.

(7) In order to avoid duplication of group medical coverage, a survivor may defer enrollment in PEBB retiree insurance coverage as described in WAC 182-12-200 and 182-12-205.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.065, 41.05.160, 2023 c 312 § 1, 2024 c 185 § 1, Policy Resolutions PEBB 2024-14, 2024-19, 2024-20, 2024-21, and 2024-26. WSR 24-18-082 (Admin #2024-01.06), § 182-12-265, filed 8/29/24, effective 1/1/25. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021 and 41.05.160. WSR 23-14-015 (Admin #2023-01), § 182-12-265, filed 6/23/23, effective 1/1/24. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160, and Policy Resolution PEBB 2022-03. WSR 22-13-160 (Admin #2022-02.03), § 182-12-265, filed 6/21/22, effective 1/1/23. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160 and Policy resolution PEBB 2021-14. WSR 21-13-104 (Admin #2021-01.04), § 182-12-265, filed 6/18/21, effective 1/1/22. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160, 42 C.F.R. § 422.62(b) and § 423.38(c) and PEBB policy resolution 2020-05. WSR 20-16-063 (Admin #2020-02), § 182-12-265, filed 7/28/20, effective 1/1/21. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160, and PEBB policy resolutions. WSR 19-17-073 (Admin #2019-01), § 182-12-265, filed 8/20/19, effective 1/1/20; WSR 18-20-117 (Admin #2018-02), § 182-12-265, filed 10/3/18, effective 1/1/19; WSR 17-19-077 (Order 2017-01), § 182-12-265, 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, § 182-12-265, filed 10/4/16, effective 1/1/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4. WSR 14-20-058 (PEBB Admin 2014-02), § 182-12-265, filed 9/25/14, effective 1/1/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160. WSR 12-20-022 (Order 2012-01), § 182-12-265, filed 9/25/12, effective 11/1/12. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160 and 2011 c 8. WSR 11-22-036 (Order 11-02), § 182-12-265, filed 10/26/11, effective 1/1/12. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160. WSR 09-23-102 (Order

09-02), § 182-12-265, filed 11/17/09, effective 1/1/10; WSR 08-20-128 (Order 08-03), § 182-12-265, filed 10/1/08, effective 1/1/09; WSR 07-20-129 (Order 07-01), § 182-12-265, filed 10/3/07, effective 11/3/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160 and 41.05.068. WSR 06-23-165 (Order 06-09), § 182-12-265, filed 11/22/06, effective 12/23/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160, 41.05.350, and 41.05.165. WSR 05-16-046 (Order 05-01), § 182-12-265, filed 7/27/05, effective 8/27/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160 and 41.05.165. WSR 04-18-039, § 182-12-265, filed 8/26/04, effective 1/1/05.]