

# WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T PAY MY FULL BILL ON TIME?

A GRACE PERIOD gives you extra time to pay your premium before your coverage ends.



## WHAT HAPPENS?

- Doc** – What happens if I try to see a health care provider?  
**Rx** – What happens if I try to pick up a prescription?  
**\$** – What do I need to pay to keep my coverage?



## IT DEPENDS:

- Do you get **FINANCIAL HELP** or do you pay the **FULL COST** of your premium?



### I GET FINANCIAL HELP

(Federal (APTC) or State (VPA) subsidies help pay my monthly premium.)

If you do not pay your full bill by the end of the month, here is what happens:



#### ENTER GRACE PERIOD

- Doc** – Your doctor will provide services. Your insurer will pay your claims.  
**Rx** – Your pharmacy will fill your prescription. Your insurer will pay your claims.  
**\$\$** – You now owe two months of premium payments. You must pay your past-due balance and the next month's premium to be paid in full.



#### ENTER 2<sup>ND</sup> MONTH OF GRACE PERIOD

- Doc** – Your doctors may not provide services. Claims will not be paid.\*  
**Rx** – Pharmacy claims will not be paid. You pay the full cost to get your medication.\*  
**\$\$\$** – You now owe three months of premium payments. You must pay your past-due balance and the next month's premium to be paid in full.



#### ENTER 3<sup>RD</sup> MONTH OF GRACE PERIOD

- Doc** – Your doctors may not provide services. Claims will not be paid.\*  
**Rx** – Pharmacy claims will not be paid. You pay the full cost to get your medication.\*  
**\$\$\$\$** – You now owe four months of premium payments. You must pay your past-due balance and the next month's premium to be paid in full.



#### COVERAGE ENDS EFFECTIVE THE LAST DAY OF THE FIRST MONTH YOU DIDN'T PAY

- Doc** – Your claims will be rejected.  
**Rx** – Your insurance card will be rejected.  
 You will likely have to wait until January for new coverage to start.<sup>^</sup>



### I PAY FULL COST

If you do not pay your full bill by the end of the month, here is what happens:



#### ENTER GRACE PERIOD

- Doc** – Your doctor will provide services. Your insurer will pay your claims.  
**Rx** – Your pharmacy will fill your prescription. Your insurer will pay your claims.  
**\$\$** – You now owe two months of premium payments. You must pay your past-due balance and the next month's premium to be paid in full.



#### COVERAGE ENDS

- Doc** – Your claims will be rejected.  
**Rx** – Your insurance card will be rejected.  
 You will likely have to wait until January for new coverage to start.<sup>^</sup>

Once each year, insurance companies may make an exception and reinstate coverage for full-cost customers. If your insurance company reinstates your coverage, they will process claims that had previously been rejected.

\* Your insurance company will pay these claims after you pay all premiums that are due and your coverage stays active.

<sup>^</sup> You will have to wait until Open Enrollment to apply for new coverage unless you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period. For information on qualifying events, click "Get Started" at VermontHealthConnect.gov or call 855-899-9600. Coverage will start in January if you apply by December 15.

## REMEMBER:

1. If you get a late payment notice, be sure to pay the full amount due as soon as possible. This includes past-due and the next month's premiums.
2. If your coverage ends because you didn't pay, you will likely have to wait until January for new coverage.
3. You must pay for your coverage before the first of the month. Paying early is one way to keep from getting late payment notices. You can set up automatic payments to pay your premium each month. Call your insurance company to get started.