

Michelle's Law notice – Extended dependent medical coverage during student medical leaves

The Western Governor's University plan may extend medical coverage for dependent children if they lose eligibility for coverage because of a medically necessary leave of absence from a post-secondary educational institution (including a college or university). Coverage may continue for up to a year, unless the child's eligibility would end earlier for another reason.

Extended coverage is available if a child's leave of absence from school – or change in school enrollment status (for example, switching from full-time to part-time status) – starts while the child has a serious illness or injury, is medically necessary and otherwise causes eligibility for student coverage under the plan to end. Written certification from the child's physician stating that the child suffers from a serious illness or injury and the leave of absence is medically necessary may be required.

If the coverage provided by the plan is changed during this one-year period, the plan will provide the changed coverage for the remainder of the leave of absence.

If your child will lose eligibility for coverage because of a medically necessary leave of absence from school and you want his or her coverage to be extended, contact WGU Benefit Department at benefits@wgu.edu as soon as the need for the leave is recognized. In addition, contact *your child's health plan* to see if any state laws requiring extended coverage may apply to his or her benefits.