

Student Health Plans

CASE STUDY



Obtaining health insurance as a college student can be a complex situation to navigate — and we're here to help. In this case study, our partner, Gallagher HFP discusses how they helped a client walk through the complex decision of acquiring healthcare coverage for a dependent.

What's the best healthcare coverage for a student traveling out of state for college?

- ▶ Mary (primary beneficiary) and Jane (dependent) are enrolled in a Marketplace plan through the State of New Jersey.
- ▶ Jane has recently accepted a scholarship to the University of Oregon and will be attending classes in the Fall.
- ▶ Jane has a preexisting medical condition and sees the doctor on a regular basis for checkups.
- ▶ Mary and Jane want to know the best options for Jane's health coverage.

Options for Jane

- ▶ **Eligibility:** Each state has different eligibility criteria and enrollment periods that need extensive research before making a decision. After reviewing all of Jane's options she is eligible for the following:
 - 1. New Jersey Marketplace:** Jane is eligible to stay on her current plan with her mother. This is an HMO plan that will have very limited coverage for any out-of-network services. Jane does need routine medical care which would make this option less cost-effective in the long run.
 - 2. University of Oregon Student Health Plan:** Jane is eligible for a student health plan once she starts attending classes. The benefits of this plan are comparable to Marketplace plans and offer Medical and Prescription coverage for Jane. This is a PPO plan that will have out-of-network benefits.
 - 3. Oregon Marketplace:** Jane is eligible to enroll in an Oregon-based Marketplace plan once she finalizes her move. The state offers most HMO options with a robust local network of providers.

Plan	Cost for Jane	Cost for Mary	Total Cost
New Jersey Marketplace Plan	\$0	\$816	\$816
University of Oregon Student Health Plan	\$274	\$438	\$712
Oregon Marketplace Plan	\$317	\$438	\$755

Considerations for Jane

- 1. Medical Care:** With Jane's preexisting medical condition, she needs to ensure access to a specialist in Oregon for routine checkups. Jane's current provider generated a recommended list of specialists in the area. After cross-checking the list of recommended providers with the list of providers covered by each health insurance plan, we found that she would have coverage for visits through the student health plan or Oregon Marketplace plan.
- 2. Coverage with Travel:** Jane plans on regularly traveling back to New Jersey, and will need coverage there. The only option that provides this type of coverage is the Oregon Student Health Plan.
- 3. Cost:** Mary wanted to keep premium payments in a comparable range to her current payments. Based on the chart above, the Oregon Student Health Plan costs less than her current plan.

Takeaways

After researching all the available options, networks, and pricing we found that the University of Oregon student health plan would be the best for Jane. We assisted Jane with enrollment to ensure that the effective date lined up with the termination date of the New Jersey-based plan.

Balentine offers complimentary advisory services to our clients through our partnership with Gallagher Healthcare Financial Planning. Please do not hesitate to reach out to a relationship manager if you have questions about your personal healthcare situation.