

Important Notice About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

IF YOU ALREADY HAVE A MEDICARE PART D PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE, PLEASE DISREGARD THIS NOTIFICATION

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage offered by _____ and prescription drug coverage available for people who are eligible for Medicare.

If you or one of your dependents has Medicare coverage or becomes eligible for Medicare coverage, it also explains the options you have under Medicare prescription drug coverage and can help you decide whether or not you want to enroll. At the end of this notice is information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage.

Facts you need to know

1. Medicare prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage Plans that offer prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare. All these plans provide at least a standard level of coverage established by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.
2. _____ has determined that your plan's prescription drug coverage is, on average for all participants, NOT expected to cover as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug benefit covers. Therefore, your plan is considered "**Non-Creditable Coverage.**" This is important because for most people enrolled in this group plan with _____, enrolling in Medicare prescription drug coverage means you will get more assistance with drug costs than if you had prescription drug coverage exclusively through _____ group plan.
3. You have to make a decision about Medicare prescription drug coverage that may affect how much you pay for that coverage, depending on when you enroll. So, if you are eligible for Medicare coverage read this notice carefully—it explains those options.

Consider enrolling in Medicare prescription drug coverage

Because your existing coverage is, on average for all plan participants, NOT expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage, you may want to consider enrolling in a Medicare prescription drug plan.

You can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare. Or, you can enroll between Nov. 15 and Dec. 31 of any year after you first become eligible for Medicare. If you leave employer/union coverage, you may be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period for a Medicare prescription drug plan.

If you do decide to drop your _____ medical and prescription drug coverage in favor of a Medicare prescription drug plan, you and your dependents may not be able to resume your _____ coverage in the future.

The cost of waiting

After your initial Medicare eligibility date, if you go 63 days or longer without prescription drug coverage that is at least as good as Medicare’s prescription drug coverage, your premium will go up at least 1% per month for every month that you did not have that coverage.

For example, if you go 19 months without coverage or without coverage that is at least as good as Medicare’s prescription drug coverage, your premium will always be at least 19% higher than what many other people pay. You’ll have to pay this higher premium as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following November to enroll.

It’s an important decision

When you make your decision, you should compare your current coverage with other plans that offer Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. When you compare plans, consider cost, coverage levels and which drugs are covered.

To learn more about this notice or your current prescription drug coverage:

Call _____.

NOTE: You’ll get this notice once a year and at other times, such as before the next Medicare prescription drug coverage enrollment period, and you may get this notice if your coverage through _____ changes. You also may request a copy.

To learn more about your Medicare prescription drug coverage options:

See the “Medicare & You” handbook. Medicare will send you a copy of this handbook every year and contact you directly about prescription drug plans. For more information:

- Visit **www.medicare.gov**.
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program for personalized help (see the “Medicare & You” handbook for their telephone number).
- Call 1 (800) MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1 (877) 486-2048.

Help with paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available for people with limited income and resources. Contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) online at **www.socialsecurity.gov** or call them at 1 (800) 772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Date: _____

Name of Company: _____

Contact--Position/Office: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____