

Medicare Part D Disclosure Notice

Important Notice about your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about our company's group health plan prescription drug coverage, and prescription drug coverage available for people with Medicare. 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.

Our company's group health plan is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay, and is considered "creditable coverage."

Because our plan is considered creditable coverage, you can enroll and/or stay enrolled in our plan, and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.

Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare prescription drug plan. All Medicare prescription drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.

Individuals (employees and/or their dependents) may enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan when they first become eligible for Medicare, and each year from October 15th through December 7th, the annual Medicare Open Enrollment Period, with coverage effective on January 1st. Individuals leaving a group health plan during other times of the year may be eligible for a special enrollment period to sign up for a Medicare prescription drug plan.

If you do decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and drop your employer's group health plan prescription drug coverage, be aware that you may not be able to get this coverage back. See below for more information about what happens to your coverage if you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan.

You should also know that if you drop or lose your coverage with your employer's group health plan and do not enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage within 63 days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage later.

If you go 63 days or longer without prescription drug coverage that is at least as good as Medicare's prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up at least 1% per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without coverage, your premium may always be at least 19% higher than the regular premium. You will have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following Medicare Open Enrollment Period to enroll.

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is available in the “Medicare & You” handbook. You will receive a copy of the handbook in the mail from Medicare every year. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare prescription drug plans. You can also get more information about Medicare prescription drug plans from these places:

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

For people with limited income and resources, extra help paying for a Medicare prescription drug plan is available. Information about this extra help is available from the Social Security Administration (SSA). For more information about this extra help, visit SSA online at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call them at **(800) 772-1213; TTY (800) 325-0778**.

Remember: Keep this notice. If you enroll in one of the plans approved by Medicare that offer prescription drug coverage, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show that you have maintained creditable coverage, and are not required to pay a higher premium amount (a penalty).

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