

Important Notice from the City of Baltimore about Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare Part D

NOTICE OF CREDITABLE COVERAGE

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice applies to all City of Baltimore employees, retirees and dependents that are entitled to Medicare and are enrolled in the current prescription drug coverage through The City of Baltimore. It also explains the options you have under Medicare Part D 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.

Important Points to remember

Medicare prescription drug coverage (Medicare Part D) became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare through Medicare Part D prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage Plans that offer prescription drug coverage. 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.

The City of Baltimore has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the City of Baltimore's Express Scripts plan is creditable coverage. Creditable coverage means that, on average for all plan participants, our plan through Express Scripts is expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage will pay.

Because your existing prescription plan is creditable coverage and is on average at least as good as the standard Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage, you can keep your Express Scripts coverage and not pay extra if you later decide to enroll in Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage.

When Can You Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

Individuals can enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan when they first become eligible for Medicare and each year from November 15th through December 31st.

Beneficiaries leaving employer/union coverage or if you lose your Express Scripts coverage through no fault of your own, you may be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period to sign up for a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan.

You should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered, with the coverage and cost of the plans offering Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage in your area.

What Happens to Your Current Coverage If You Decide to Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

If you join a Medicare Part D drug plan, your City of Baltimore prescription drug benefits will be affected. Should you do decide to enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan your coverage and your dependent's coverage with Express Scripts will terminate. Be aware that you and your dependents may will not be able to re-enroll in the City of Baltimore's Prescription drug plan until the next open enrollment period.

When Will You Pay a Higher Premium (Penalty) To Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

You should also know that if you drop or lose your coverage with the City of Baltimore and don't enroll in Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage after your current coverage ends, you may pay more (a penalty) to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage later.

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without prescription drug coverage that's at least as good as Medicare's prescription drug coverage, your monthly Medicare Part D 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, 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 Part D prescription drug coverage.

For More Information about this Notice or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage

Contact our office for further information at 410-396-5830. NOTE: You will receive this notice annually and at other times in the future such as before the next period you can enroll in Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage, and if this coverage through Express Scripts changes. You also may request a copy at anytime.

For More Information about Your Options under Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage

- 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 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is in the "Medicare & You" handbook. You'll get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare.

If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. Information about this extra help is available from the Social Security Administration (SSA) online at www.socialsecurity.gov, or you can call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Remember: Keep this Creditable Coverage notice. If you decide to join one of the Medicare drug plans, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show that you are not required to pay a higher premium (penalty) amount.

Date:	10/1/2009
Name of Entity/Sender:	City of Baltimore
Contact /Office:	Medicare Part D Manager
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Phone Number:	(410) 396-5830