

MEMORANDUM

To:	Employee of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph
From:	Human Resources Department
Date:	October 14, 2024

Final regulations were published in January 2005 which implements the new Medicare Part D voluntary outpatient prescription drug benefit for qualified health plans. The program was created by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003. The New drug benefit was available beginning on January 1, 2006.

What is Medicare Part D?

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 was enacted on December 8, 2003. This act added a new voluntary prescription drug program to Medicare, referred to as Medicare Part D. Medicare Part D contains provisions which:

Make prescription drug coverage available starting January 1, 2006.

Provide standards for beneficiary eligibility, access, benefits and protections.

Provide standards for organizations participating in the voluntary Medicare prescription drug program, and

Require entities to provide a disclosure of creditable coverage status to all Part D Eligible Individuals and to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Who is a Part D Eligible Individual?

An individual is a Part D Eligible Individual if:

The individual is entitled to Medicare Part A and/or enrolled in Part B, as of the effective date of coverage under the Part D plan; and the individual resides in the service area of a prescription drug plan (PDP) or of a Medicare Advantage plan that provides prescription drug coverage (MA-PD).

Note that in general, an individual becomes entitled to Medicare part A when the person actually has Part A coverage and not simply when the person is first eligible.

In order to comply with all local, state and federal entities, this notice is being communicated in hard copy form.

If you have questions feel free to contact your Human Resources department.

This information is being provided to you in advance so that you understand your coverage prior to becoming Medicare-eligible. We will notify you again during our annual Open Enrollment should there be a change in the prescription drug benefit that would change the non-creditable status of the plan.

Important Notice from The Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph 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 your current prescription drug coverage with The Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether or not you want to join a Medicare drug plan. If you are considering joining, you should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered at what cost, with the coverage and costs of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.

There are two important things you need to know about your current coverage and Medicare's prescription drug coverage:

- 1. 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 or join a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO) that offers prescription drug coverage. All Medicare 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.**
- 2. The Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Blue Saver, Blue Care, Preferred Care Blue PPO is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage. Because your existing coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.**

When Can You Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

You can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15 to December 7

However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan.

CMS Form 10182-CC

Updated April 1, 2011

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0938-0990. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 8 hours per response initially, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: PRA Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

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

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your current The Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph coverage will be affected

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current The Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will be able to get this coverage back.

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 current coverage with The Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph and don't join a Medicare drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan later.

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the Medicare base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without creditable coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may 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 October to join.

For More Information About This Notice Or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage...

Contact the person listed below for further. **NOTE:** You'll get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this coverage through The Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

For More Information About Your Options Under Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage...

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. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare drug plans.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

- Visit www.medicare.gov
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of 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.

If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at www.socialsecurity.gov, or 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 whether or not you have maintained creditable coverage and, therefore, whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).

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