



DATE: October 1, 2022

TO: Medicare Eligible Retirees/Dependents

FROM: CCBC Benefits Team

RE: **Medicare Prescription Drug Program**

Please read this notice carefully and keep it with your health insurance information. This notice has information about the current prescription drug coverage with your CCBC sponsored health plan and prescription drug coverage that is available for retirees and their dependents with Medicare. It also explains the options you have under Medicare prescription drug coverage and can help you decide whether 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.

- Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare through Medicare 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.
- CCBC has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered is on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay and is considered Creditable Coverage.

**Because your existing coverage is on average at least as good as a standard Medicare prescription drug coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay extra if you later decide to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage.**

Each year you will have the opportunity to enroll in the Medicare prescription drug plan between October 15<sup>th</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>. If your prescription drug benefits offered by your CCBC prescription provider are as good as the Medicare prescription drug plans, **you will not need to enroll in the Medicare coverage.**

**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.**

**If you enroll in a separate Medicare prescription drug plan, you will lose coverage for prescription benefits under your CCBC sponsored medical/prescription plan.**

You should also know that if you drop or lose coverage with your CCBC sponsored plan and don't enroll in Medicare 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 days or longer without prescription drug coverage that's at least as good as Medicare's prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium will 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 will always be at least 19% higher than what many other people pay. You'll have to pay this higher premium if you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to enroll.

### **For More Information About This Notice or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage...**

For further information contact CCBC's Benefit Help Line at 443-840-4398 or Anita Doll at 443-840-3278 or by email at [adoll@ccbcmd.edu](mailto:adoll@ccbcmd.edu).

### **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 prescription drug plans. For more information about Medicare prescription drug plans:

- Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://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.

For people with 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](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), or you call them at 1-800-772-1213. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778.

**Remember: Keep this notice. If you enroll in one of the new plans approved by Medicare, which offer prescription drug coverage, 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 amount.**

### **Summary:**

- Because you currently have prescription drug coverage as good as or better than the Medicare prescription coverage, you do not need to enroll in the Medicare coverage currently.
- If you enroll in the Medicare prescription drug coverage, you and covered dependents can no longer be enrolled in your CCBC sponsored prescription plan.
- If you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan, you must send written notification to your CCBC sponsored plan's Benefits Office.
- Save this important notice and the information you receive from Medicare.