Important Notice from Ohio School Benefits Cooperative 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 Ohio School Benefits Cooperative and the prescription drug coverage available since January 1, 2006 for people with Medicare. It also tells you where to find more information to help you make decisions about your prescription drug coverage.

1. **Since January 1, 2006, Medicare prescription drug coverage has been available to everyone with Medicare.**

2. **Medical Mutual has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by Ohio School Benefits Cooperative is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage.**

3. **Read this notice carefully – it explains the options you have under Medicare prescription drug coverage, and can help you decide whether or not you want to enroll.**

You may have heard about Medicare's prescription drug coverage, and wondered how it would affect you. Medical Mutual has determined that your prescription drug coverage with Ohio School Benefits Cooperative is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay.

Since January 1, 2006, prescription drug coverage has been available to everyone with Medicare through Medicare prescription drug plans. All Medicare prescription drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans might also offer more coverage for higher monthly premiums.

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

People with Medicare can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan from October 15, 2025 through December 7, 2025. However, because you have existing prescription drug coverage that, on average, is as good as Medicare coverage, you can choose to join a Medicare prescription drug plan later. Each subsequent year, you will again have the opportunity to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan between October 15th and December 7th. 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 to join a Medicare drug plan.

If you do decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and drop your Ohio School Benefits Cooperative prescription drug coverage, be aware that you may not be able to get this coverage back.

If you drop your coverage with Ohio School Benefits Cooperative and enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan, you may not be able to get this coverage back later. You should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered, with the coverage and cost of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area.

You should also know that if you drop or lose your coverage with Ohio School Benefits Cooperative and don't enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay more 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 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 as long as 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…

Contact the person listed below or your school district's benefits office for further information. NOTE: You may receive this notice at other times in the future such as before the next period you can enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage, and if your coverage with Ohio School Benefits Cooperative changes. You also may request a copy.

For more information about your options under Medicare prescription drug coverage…

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is available 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. 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 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 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 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Remember: Keep this notice. If you decide to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage, you may need to give a copy of this notice when you join to show that you are not required to pay a higher premium amount.

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