

Annual Medicare D Creditable Coverage Notice

To: All Benefits-Eligible HCS Employees
From: Robbin Ruth, Executive Director of Human Resources and Title IX Coordinator
Date: June 2021

You are receiving this letter because you are eligible for benefits through Hampton City Schools (HCS).

The law requires us to notify all HCS benefits-eligible employees who are also eligible for Medicare, as well as all employees who may have a spouse or dependent who is eligible for Medicare. Receipt of this information does not indicate that you are eligible for Medicare. Rather than risk missing any employees who fall into one of these two groups, we are sending the information to all employees who are eligible for HCS benefits.

The attached Creditable Coverage notice confirms that the prescription drug benefits provided by HCS are richer than the standard benefits offered under Medicare Part D. Most people will receive better prescription coverage by remaining in the HCS medical plan and not enrolling in Medicare Part D. This might not be true for you if your income places you at or near the Federal Poverty guidelines.

Even though the Medicare Part D program may penalize individuals who do not enroll when first eligible, the fact that the HCS medical program is “creditable coverage” will allow you to avoid any late enrollment penalties if you enroll in the Medicare Part D program in the future.

If you or a family member are eligible for Medicare and covered by the HCS medical plan, please read the attached notice and keep it in your records as proof of creditable coverage.

Important Notice from Hampton City Schools 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 Hampton City Schools 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. Hampton City Schools has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by Cigna 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 15th through 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 (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan.

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 Hampton City Schools coverage will not be affected. You can keep this coverage if you elect part D and Hampton City Schools' plan will coordinate with Part D coverage.

After a \$150 deductible, Hampton City Schools' Current Coverage is:

Cigna Drug Benefits			
For medications you need when you are not in a hospital, you can receive ...	First Tier Copayments (Typically generic drugs)	Second Tier Copayments (Typically lower cost brand-name drugs)	Third Tier Copayments (Typically higher cost brand-name drugs)
Up to a 31-day medication supply from participating retail pharmacies	\$10	\$30	\$50
Up to a 90-day medication supply through home delivery	\$10	\$60	\$150

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Hampton City Schools' coverage, be aware that you and your dependents may not be able to get this coverage back without a qualifying life event.

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 Hampton City Schools 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 information or call Cigna at 800-244-6224. **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 Hampton City Schools 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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