



## **NOTICE OF CREDITABLE COVERAGE**

### **Important Notice from the National IAM Benefit Trust Fund 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 National IAM Benefit Trust Fund (the “Fund”) 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 Fund has determined that the prescription drug coverage administered by CVS/Caremark 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.

Below you will find some answers to questions you may have regarding creditable coverage and how it relates to Medicare Part D plans and Medicare beneficiaries. **If you are not eligible for Medicare at this time, the information below is not applicable.**

#### **When can I 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 to 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.



## **What do I need to do?**

**To stay with your current prescription drug coverage from the Fund, *you don't have to do anything*.** Just keep using the coverage you have now. You can still use the same pharmacy network, you'll keep the same affordable copayments for your prescription drugs, and you don't need to go through an enrollment process. You're already enrolled in your current plan, which provides you with coverage that is, on average, at least as good as that offered under Medicare Part D. If you do not want to continue to receive coverage from the Fund, you will have to select a commercial Prescription Drug Plan (PDP). A summary of the plans available to you, as well as information on how to enroll in one of these plans can be found on the Internet at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

## **Will I be able to keep my current prescription coverage under the Fund if I enroll in a Medicare Part D program?**

If you are a Medicare-eligible retiree and enroll in a Medicare Part D plan, your prescription drug coverage through the Fund will terminate as of the effective date of your enrollment in Medicare Part D. However, you will be permitted to keep your current medical coverage through the Fund, provided you continue to meet the eligibility requirements. Once you enroll in a Medicare Part D plan, you will begin paying *an additional premium for your prescription drug benefits through the Medicare Part D plan*. However, there will be no reduction to any applicable premium you pay for your coverage through the Fund if you drop your prescription drug coverage and enroll in a Medicare Part D Plan.

## **Why do I need to keep my Notice of Creditable Coverage?**

If you are satisfied with your prescription drug coverage from the Fund, just keep using it as you do now. However, if after your initial Medicare enrollment period, you consider enrolling in one of the many Medicare Part D prescription drug plans, you may be asked for a copy of this Notice. *This Notice will let a Medicare Part D plan know that you have creditable coverage now, and are not required to pay a late enrollment penalty, which could result in a higher premium on your new coverage.* Remember, the coverage you have now through the Fund is creditable coverage. That is, your current coverage is, on average, at least as good as that offered by Medicare Part D.

## **What if I lose this Notice of Creditable Coverage?**

If you need another copy of your Notice of Creditable Coverage, please contact the IAM National Benefit Funds Office at 1-800-457-3481, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., EST. You may also write to us at:

National IAM Benefit Trust Fund  
99 M Street SE, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20003-4595

## **If I decide to enroll in a Medicare Part D plan but don't like it, can I go back to my old plan with the Fund?**

As indicated above, if you enroll in a Medicare Part D plan, your prescription drug coverage through the Fund will terminate. However, your prescription drug coverage with the Fund will resume upon notification that your coverage with the Medicare Part D plan terminated.



## **What if I drop my prescription coverage with the Fund but don't enroll in a Medicare Part D plan?**

Please note that your prescription coverage is a part of your current medical coverage through the Fund. If you drop your current coverage but do not enroll in a prescription drug plan approved by Medicare after your current coverage ends, you will have to pay full price for your prescription drugs.

You may also have to pay more for Medicare prescription drug coverage later. If after your initial Medicare enrollment period (or any special enrollment period, if applicable) you go for 63 continuous days or longer without creditable coverage (i.e., prescription drug coverage that is, on average, at least as good as Medicare's prescription drug coverage), *your monthly premium under a Medicare plan may increase by at least 1% of the base beneficiary premium per month for each month that you did not have creditable coverage. This increase will be effective as long as you have Medicare prescription coverage.*

For example, if you do not have creditable coverage for 19 months before enrolling in Medicare prescription drug coverage, your premium with a Medicare plan will be 19% higher than what you would have paid if you had enrolled during your initial enrollment period (or any special enrollment period). *Also, you may have to wait until the next October 15 to enroll.*

## **If I keep my current prescription coverage with the Fund, can I enroll in a Medicare Part D plan later?**

Yes. You have the option to enroll in one of Medicare Part D's many prescription drug plans during your initial Medicare enrollment period (generally this is the period that starts three months before the month you turn 65 and ends three months after the month you turn 65). In addition, you will have the opportunity to enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan every year from October 15 to December 7. If you lose creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will be eligible for a sixty (60) day Special Enrollment Period to join a Part D plan. In addition, if you lose or decide to leave employer/union-sponsored coverage, you will be eligible to join a Part D plan at that time using an Employer Group Special Enrollment Period.

If you do not enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan during your initial Medicare enrollment period (or any special enrollment period), be sure you're covered under your current plan (or other creditable coverage) until your Medicare Part D coverage becomes effective. If you choose to enroll in a Medicare Part D plan without having creditable coverage with another plan like this one, you may have to wait to join a Medicare drug plan and may have to pay a higher premium (a penalty). You may pay that higher premium (a penalty) for as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage.

## **How can I get more information?**

Contact the IAM National Benefit Funds Office at the address and phone number listed herein for further information.

**NOTE:** You'll get this notice each year. You will also get it if this coverage through the Fund changes. You also may request a copy at any time.

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is in the "Medicare & You" handbook. If you are eligible for Medicare, 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.



If you would like more information:

- Visit <https://www.medicare.gov/>
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (“SHIP”). For your local SHIPs’ contact information, refer to the “Medicare & You” Handbook at <https://www.medicare.gov/publications>.
- 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 the Social Security Administration at <https://www.ssa.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 whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).**

Sincerely,

The National IAM Benefit Trust Fund Board of Trustees

Date: October 2023  
Name of Entity/Sender: National IAM Benefit Trust Fund  
Contact--Position/Office: IAM National Benefit Funds Office  
Address: 99 M Street SE, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20003-4595  
Phone Number: 1-800-457-3481