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A member of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. An Association of Independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans.

October, 2018

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1948 GRAND AVE E
LARAMIE, WY 82070

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) laid the groundwork for prescription drug coverage to be available through Medicare effective January 1, 2006.

The MMA requires all employers that provide prescription drug coverage to Medicare beneficiaries to disclose whether or not the employer's coverage is "creditable". Prescription drug coverage is considered to be creditable coverage if the actuarial value of the coverage equals or exceeds the actuarial value of the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage. The regulation requires that creditable coverage notices (CCN) be provided to all Part D eligible individuals who are covered under or who apply for their employer's prescription drug coverage. An annual notification is also required prior to the Medicare Part D Annual Coordinated Election Period (ACEP), which begins October 15th and runs through December 7th of each year.

It is the responsibility of the employer to notify all individuals "entitled to" Medicare of the credibility status of their prescription drug coverage. To assist you with your responsibility, enclosed you will find a Creditable Coverage Notification (CCN) which identifies the credibility status of your group prescription drug coverage. We recommend that you provide a copy of this notice to all participants in your health plan, regardless of their current Medicare status.

The materials enclosed will help you meet your Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reporting requirement. As described above, there is an annual notification requirement, and it is our intention to notify you on an annual basis of the credibility status of your group prescription drug plan. For more information regarding the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act please refer to www.cms.hhs.gov/Medicare/Medicare.html or you can contact our Member Services Department at 1.800.442.2376.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Logan Trautwein".

Logan Trautwein
Manager, Member Services

Enclosure

Group: 312121

4000 House Avenue ▪ PO Box 2266 ▪ Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-2266
307-634-1393 ▪ 1-800-442-2376
Fax 307-778-8582 ▪ www.bcbswy.com

Important Notice from BCBS OF WYOMING 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 Wyoming Educators' Benefit Trust 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. BCBS of Wyoming has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Wyoming Educators' Benefit Trust plan 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 Wyoming Educators' Benefit Trust plan coverage may be affected. Please contact Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming if you are thinking about joining a Medicare drug plan.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Wyoming Educators' Benefit Trust plan coverage, be aware that you and your dependents may not 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 Wyoming Educators' Benefit Trust 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 our office for further information at 1.800.210.6642. **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 Wyoming Educators' Benefit Trust 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).

Date:	11 October 2018
Sender:	Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming
Contact:	Member Services
Address:	PO Box 2266 Cheyenne, WY 82003
Phone Number:	1.800.210.6642