



CITY OF PROVIDENCE
MAYOR BRETT P. SMILEY

**Important Notice to Employees of the City of Providence
About Creditable and Noncreditable Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare**

The purpose of this notice is to advise you of which prescription drug coverages under the City of Providence medical plan are, and which are not, expected to pay out, on average, at least as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay in 2024. This is known as “creditable” or “noncreditable coverage.”

Why this is important. If you or your covered dependent(s) are enrolled in any prescription drug coverage listed in this notice during 2024 and are or become covered by Medicare, you may be subject to a late enrollment penalty (if you enroll after your applicable Medicare enrollment period) – unless you have “creditable” prescription drug coverage through a source other than the coverage listed below. You will not be subject to a late enrollment penalty if you do not go 63 days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage. You should keep this notice with your important records.

If you or your family members aren’t currently covered by Medicare and won’t become covered by Medicare in the next 12 months, this notice doesn’t apply to you.

Please read the notice below carefully. It has information about prescription drug coverage with the City of Providence and prescription drug coverage available for people with Medicare. It also tells you where to find more information to help you make decisions about your prescription drug coverage.

Notice of Creditable Coverage

You may have heard about Medicare’s prescription drug coverage (called Part D), and wondered how it would affect you. Prescription drug coverage is 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 also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.

Individuals can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan when they first become eligible, and each year from October 15 through December 7. Individuals leaving employer/union coverage may be eligible for a Medicare Special Enrollment Period.

Notice of noncreditable coverage

If you are covered by the City of Providence medical plan listed below, you'll be interested to know that coverage is not, on average, at least as good as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage for 2024. This is called **noncreditable** coverage. If you have drug coverage only through the below plan, you may have to pay a Part D late enrollment penalty if you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan after your applicable Medicare enrollment period ends.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island Plan 65 (***when not paired with a Blue Medicare Rx plan***)

Notice of creditable coverage

If you are covered by one of the City of Providence retiree prescription drug plans listed below, you'll be interested to know that coverage is, on average, at least as good as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage for 2024. This is called **creditable** coverage. Coverage under one of these plans will help you avoid a late Part D enrollment penalty if you are or become eligible for Medicare and later decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island Plan 65 (***only when paired with a Blue Medicare Rx plan***)

BlueCHIP for Medicare

If you are covered as a retiree or dependent under the City's Pre-65 Retiree Medical Plan, your coverage under that plan will terminate at age 65. At that time, you should enroll in Medicare. If you do not enroll in Medicare at that time, you may be subject to late Part B and Part D enrollment penalties. If you become covered under Medicare prior to age 65 due to end stage renal disease, you can continue your coverage under the City's Pre-65 Retiree Medical Plan for as long as is required by law, but you may need to enroll in Medicare Part B to avoid late Part B enrollment penalties. If you are entitled to Medicare due to end stage renal disease, and choose to continue coverage under the City's Pre-65 retiree medical plan, you need not enroll in a Part D plan because the prescription drug coverage provided under the City's Pre-65 Retiree Medical Plan is creditable.

For retirees participating in a Post-65 retiree medical plan, you will still be eligible to receive the City of Providence retiree medical coverage if you choose to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan. However, the City of Providence plan will pay secondary to Medicare.

You should know that if you go 63 days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage (after your applicable Medicare enrollment period ends), your monthly Part D premium will go up at least 1% per month for every month that you did not have creditable coverage. For example, if you go 19 months without coverage, your Medicare prescription drug plan premium will always be at least 19% higher than what most other people pay. You'll 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 in Part D.

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, if this coverage changes, or upon your request.

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. Medicare participants will get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare prescription drug plans. Here's how to get more information about Medicare prescription drug plans:

- Visit www.medicare.gov for personalized help.
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see a copy of the Medicare & You handbook for the telephone number).
- 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 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Remember: Keep this notice. If you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan after your applicable Medicare enrollment period ends, you may need to provide a copy of this notice when you join a Part D plan to show that you are not required to pay a higher Part D premium amount.

For more information about this notice or your prescription drug coverage, contact:

City of Providence - Benefits
(401) 680-5279
Benefits@providenceri.gov

Providence Public School District – Benefits
(401) 456-9100
Benefits@ppsd.org – School Department