

Notice of Creditable Prescription Drug Coverage



The following is a legal notice that Caltech is required to send to everyone eligible for the Caltech retiree medical program.

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 does not apply to you.

Creditable Prescription Drug Coverage

Please read this notice carefully. It has information about prescription drug coverage with Caltech 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.

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 Caltech coverage may be eligible for a Medicare Special Enrollment Period.

If you are covered by a Caltech prescription drug plan, you'll be interested to know that coverage is, on average, at least as good as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage for 2015. This is called creditable coverage. Coverage under a Caltech plan 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.

If you decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and you are an active employee or family member of an active employee, you may also continue your Caltech coverage. In this case, the Caltech plan will continue to pay primary or secondary as it had before you enrolled in a Medicare prescription drug plan. If you waive or drop Caltech coverage, Medicare will be your only payer. You can re-enroll in the Caltech plan at annual enrollment or if you have a special enrollment event.

You should know that if you waive or leave coverage with Caltech and you go 63 days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage (once 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 November 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 the Caltech coverage changes, or upon your request.

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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. For 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, please contact Campus Human Resources or the JPL Benefits Office.

- Campus: hrbenefits@caltech.edu, 626-395-6443
- JPL: benefits@jpl.nasa.gov, 818-354-3760