Important Notice from the Industry Health Trusts provided through the Business Health Trust (BHT) about Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare Part D

If you or a covered family member are, or will soon become, Medicare Part D eligible, please read this notice carefully and keep it with your records. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage through Business Health 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:

- Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare through Medicare Prescription Drug Plans and Medicare Advantage Plans that offer prescription drug coverage. All Medicare prescription 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.

- Premera has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by your health plan is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay and is **considered creditable coverage.** Because your existing coverage is on average at least as good as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay extra if you later decide to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage.

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 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 (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan.

What Happens To Your Current Coverage If You Decide to Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

You should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered, with the coverage and cost of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your current coverage through the Trust will not be affected.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current coverage through the Trust, please be aware that you and your dependents may not be able to get this coverage back until open enrollment. Contact the administration office for more information if necessary.

When Will You Pay A Higher Premium (Penalty) To Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

You can continue your existing coverage and choose not to enroll in a Part D plan. However, please know that if you drop or lose your coverage with the Trust and don't enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay more (a penalty) to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage 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 coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may 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.

For More Information about This Notice or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage:

For further information, call the Customer Service number on the back of your ID card. You will receive this notice annually and at other times in the future, such as before the next period you can enroll in Medicare drug coverage and if your current coverage should change. You also may request a paper 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. When you become Medicare eligible, you will be mailed a copy of the handbook 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
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see 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.

For people with limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For more information about this extra help, visit Social Security online at www.socialsecurity.gov, or by phone 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).

Notice effective as of:	January 1, 2027
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