



*******Important Information from Risk Management/Employee Benefits**

This notice applies ONLY to individuals who are over 65 and on Medicare or approaching age 65 and eligible for Medicare or receiving Medicare Disability benefits.

As part of the Medicare Part D regulations, employers are required to notify all of their Medicare-eligible employees who are covered both under their plan and by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), if their pharmacy coverage meets the “creditable coverage” requirements of the Medicare Part D regulations. A pharmacy plan is considered creditable if its benefits are equivalent to, or better than, a Medicare Part D plan.

This required notice of creditable coverage is intended to assist Medicare-eligible individuals in determining whether they should enroll in a Medicare Part D plan when first offered (initial enrollment period), or at a later date. For those individuals who do not enroll during the initial enrollment period and do not have creditable coverage under another pharmacy plan (e.g., their employer’s coverage), a late enrollment penalty fee (assessed as part of the premium) accrues monthly for each month that the individual delays enrollment in a Medicare Part D plan. If an individual has creditable coverage and enrolls in a Medicare Part D plan at a later date, they will not be assessed this penalty.

Please share this information with any Medicare eligible dependent(s) covered by your health insurance plan. A copy of this notice can be viewed and printed at www.citruschools.org

The Citrus County School District’s pharmacy benefits ARE considered Creditable Coverage.

Please read the attached notice carefully. If you have any questions or need more information regarding your options under Medicare prescription drug coverage please visit www.medicare.gov or call Medicare at 1-800-772-1213.

Important Notice from the Citrus County School District About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

This notice applies ONLY to individuals who are over 65 and on Medicare or approaching age 65 and eligible for Medicare or receiving Medicare Disability benefits. Please disregard this notice if you are not in one of these categories of individuals.

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 Citrus County School District 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 Citrus County School District has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Citrus County School District 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 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?

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your current Citrus County School District coverage will not be affected.

You can keep this coverage if you elect part D and this plan will coordinate with Part D coverage.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Citrus County School District coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will not be able to get this coverage back. With exception to IRS Approved Qualifying Events and during the Annual Open Enrollment for Active employees.

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 the Citrus County School District 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 the person listed below for further information.

NOTE:

You will receive 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 the Citrus County School District 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).

Contact: Citrus County School District
Kim Van Etten, Employee Benefits Specialist

Address: 1007 West Main Street, Inverness, FL 34450

Phone Number: 352-726-1931

CMS Form 10182-CC Updated April 1, 2011 According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0938-0990. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 8 hours per response initially, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: PRA Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.