

**Important Notice from Indiana Statewide Association of RECs, Inc.
Group Insurance Trust About
Your Creditable 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 under your employer's health plan with Principal Life Insurance Company 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. At the end of this notice is information about where you can get help to make decisions about your 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 that offers 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.**
- 2. Principal Life Insurance Company has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by your employer's 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 a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare prescription drug plan.

You can join a Medicare prescription drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from November 15th through December 31st. This may mean that you have to wait to join a Medicare drug plan and that you may have to pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you join later. You may pay that higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. However, if you lose creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will be eligible for a sixty (60) day Special Enrollment Period (SEP) because you lost creditable coverage to join a Part D plan. In addition, beneficiary's leaving employer/union coverage may be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period to sign up for a Medicare prescription 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 do decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and drop prescription drug coverage offered by your employer, be aware that you and your dependents may not be able to get this coverage back.

You should also know that if you drop or lose your coverage with your employer's health plan and don't enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare prescription drug plan later. If you go 63 continuous days or longer without prescription drug coverage that's at least as good as Medicare's prescription drug coverage; your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage.

For example, if you go 19 months without coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the 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 November to join.

**For more information about this notice or
your current prescription drug coverage...**

Contact your employer.

NOTE: You'll get this notice each year. You will also get this notice before the next period you can join a Medicare prescription drug plan, and if this coverage changes. You also may request a copy.

For more information about your options under Medicare prescription drug coverage...

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is available 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 prescription drug plans. You can also get more information about Medicare prescription drug plans from these places:

- 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 a Medicare prescription drug plan is available. For more information about this extra help, visit Social Security online at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Remember: Keep this notice. If you decide to join one of the Medicare drug plans you may need to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show whether or not you have maintained creditable coverage and whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).

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