

Health Options Program



2012 Annual Notice of Change and Evidence of Coverage

Your Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage as a Participant in the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option (Employer PDP) under the Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) Health Options Program (HOP)

This booklet gives you the details about your Medicare prescription drug coverage from January 1 – December 31, 2012, and explains how to get the prescription drugs you need. This is an important legal document. Please keep it in a safe place.

This plan is offered by the Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS), referred throughout the booklet as "we," "us" or "our." The Health Options Program (HOP) is referred to as the "plan" or "our plan." Our organization contracts with the federal government.

Definitions of important words used in this document can be found on pages 101-104.

HOP MEMBER SERVICES

For help or information about prescription drugs, please call **Prescription Solutions.**

Phone: 1-888-239-1301 (Calls to this number are free)

TTY/TDD: 1-800-498-5428 (Calls to this number are free)

Hours: 24 hours/7 days a week

For help or information about enrollment, billing, or ID cards, please call the **HOP Administration Unit** or go to our plan website at www.HOPbenefits.com.

Phone: 1-800-773-7725 (Calls to this number are free)

TTY/TDD: 1-800-498-5428 (Calls to this number are free)

Fax: 1-866-336-7124 (Calls to this number are free)

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 am – 5 pm

BASIC AND ENHANCED MEDICARE Rx OPTIONS ANNUAL NOTICE OF CHANGES FOR 2012

This section, called **Annual Notice of Changes**, tells you how your benefits and costs as a member of the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option under the Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) Health Options Program (HOP) will change next year if you stay in your current Medicare Rx Option. These changes will take effect on January 1, 2012 if you stay in this plan.

To decide what's best for you, compare this information with the benefits and costs of other Medicare prescription drug plans in your area, as well as the benefits and costs of Medicare health plans.

This information is also available online at www.HOPbenefits.com. Please call the HOP Administration Unit at the number listed on the front cover if you need plan information in another format or language.

If you remain enrolled in the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option for 2012, there will be some changes to your benefits and what you pay.

You are currently enrolled as a member of the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option under the Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) Health Options Program (HOP). We are pleased to be providing your Medicare prescription drug coverage. We're sending you this *Annual Notice of Changes* to tell you how your benefits and costs as a member of the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option will change next year from your current benefits. The changes take effect on January 1, 2012. Medicare has approved these changes.

What should you do?

We want you to know what's ahead for next year, so **please read this document very soon to see how the changes in benefits and costs will affect you if you stay enrolled in the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option for 2012.**

To decide what's best for you, compare this information we're sending with the benefits and costs of other Medicare Advantage plans in your area as well as the benefits and costs of Medicare Advantage plans.

You can find information about plans available in your area by visiting the Medicare website (<http://www.medicare.gov>). The Medicare website includes information about plans' benefits and costs, as well as information about how Medicare rates the plans in different categories (for example, detecting and preventing illness, ratings from patients, and customer service). If you have access to the web, you may use the web tools on <http://www.medicare.gov> by clicking on the "Health and Drug Plans" button and then choosing either "Find & Compare Drug Plans" or "Find & Compare Health Plans."

We hope to keep you as a member of the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option. But if you want to make a change for 2012, see "*When can you change*" in Section 4 for time periods when you can make a change.

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SECTION 1

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

The Option Selection Period ends on November 15

You have from early October until November 15 to make a change to your Medicare coverage.

You are currently enrolled in the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option, which is a Medicare prescription drug plan (PDP)

You are currently enrolled as a member of the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option. This plan is a Medicare prescription drug plan (PDP). Like all Medicare prescription drug plans, this Medicare plan is approved by Medicare.

If you stay enrolled in the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option for 2012, there will be some changes to your benefits and to what you pay

Each year, Medicare prescription drug plans may decide to change the premiums, cost-sharing amounts, and benefits they offer. These changes may include increasing or decreasing premiums, increasing or decreasing cost-sharing amounts, and adding or subtracting benefits.

We're sending you this *Annual Notice of Changes* to tell you how your benefits and costs as a member of the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option will change next year from your current benefits. The changes will take effect on January 1, 2012. Medicare has approved these changes.

This Annual Notice of Changes is only a summary (see your *Evidence of Coverage* for the details)

This *Annual Notice of Changes* gives you a summary of the changes in your benefits and what you will pay for these services in 2012. This notice is a brief summary, not a comprehensive description of benefits. For more information,

contact the plan or look in your *Evidence of Coverage*.

- To get the details, you can look in the 2012 *Evidence of Coverage* for the Basic and Enhanced Medicare Rx Options. The *Evidence of Coverage* is the legal, detailed description of your benefits and costs for 2012. It explains your rights and the rules you need to follow to get your prescription drugs. (We have included a copy of the *Evidence of Coverage* in the same booklet with this *Annual Notice of Changes*.)
- If you have questions or need more information, you can always call Prescription Solutions at 1-888-239-1301. (TTY only, call 1-800-498-5428.) Hours are 24 hours/7 days a week and calls to these numbers are free.

What should you do?

We want you to know what's ahead for next year, so **please read the rest of this document very soon to see how the changes in benefits and costs will affect you if you stay enrolled in the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option for 2012.** You have until November 15 to make a change to your Medicare coverage. If you make a change, your new coverage will start on January 1, 2012.

To decide what's best for you, compare this information about the 2012 benefits and costs for the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option to what your benefits and costs would be if you switched to a different Medicare prescription drug plan or to a Medicare health plan.

If you have access to the Internet, you can find information about plans available in your area by using the Medicare Plan Finder on the Medicare website at <http://www.medicare.gov>. The Plan Finder helps you compare your choices by giving you information about plans' benefits and costs and showing you how Medicare rates the plans. For example, these ratings let you compare how well plans are doing in different categories that include member satisfaction and customer

service. (To view the information about plans, go to <http://www.medicare.gov>. Click on the “Health & Drug Plans” button on the left and then choose “Compare Drug and Health Plans.”)

To get information about Medicare plans available in your area, you can also call Medicare or your State Health Insurance Assistance Program. For numbers to call, see Section 5 of this *Annual Notice of Changes*.

We value your membership in the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option and hope to keep you as a member. But if you want to make a change for 2012, see “When can you change to a different plan?” in Section 4 for time periods when you can make a change.

There are programs to help people with limited resources pay for their prescription drugs

You might qualify to get help in paying for your drugs. There are two basic kinds of help:

- **“Extra Help” from Medicare.** This program is also called the “low-income subsidy” or LIS. If your yearly income and resources are below certain limits, you may qualify for this help. To learn more about the Extra Help program, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. You can call these numbers for free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also look in Section III of the *Medicare & You 2012* handbook or call your

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (the name and phone numbers for this organization are in Chapter 2, Section 3 of your Evidence of Coverage).

- **Help from your state’s pharmaceutical assistance program.** Many states have State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs (SPAPs) that help some people pay for prescription drugs based on financial need, age, or medical condition. Each state has different rules. To learn more about the program in your state, check with your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (the name and phone numbers for this organization are in Chapter 2, Section 3 of your *Evidence of Coverage*).

What if you are currently getting help to pay for your drugs?

If you already get help paying for your drugs, **some of the information about premiums and Part D drug costs in this *Annual Notice of Changes* is not correct for you.** We send you a separate insert, called the “Evidence of Coverage Rider for People Who Get Extra Help Paying for Prescription Drugs” (LIS Rider), which tells you about your drug coverage. If you don’t have this insert please call the HOP Administration Unit and ask for the “Evidence of Coverage Rider for People Who Get Extra Help Paying for Prescription Drugs” (LIS Rider). Phone numbers for the HOP Administration Unit are on the front cover of this booklet.

**SECTION 2
CHANGES TO YOUR MONTHLY PREMIUM**

	BASIC MEDICARE Rx OPTION		ENHANCED MEDICARE Rx OPTION	
	2011 (this year)	2012 (next year)	2011 (this year)	2012 (next year)
Monthly Premium	\$27	\$27	\$75	\$81

Exceptions:

- If you are required to pay a late enrollment penalty (because you went at least 63 days without Part D or other “creditable” prescription drug coverage anytime after the end of your Part D initial enrollment

period), your monthly premium for 2012 will be \$27 *plus* the amount of your late enrollment penalty for the Basic Medicare Rx Option or \$81 *plus* the amount of your late enrollment penalty for the Enhanced Medicare Rx Option. For more information about this penalty, see Chapter 4 of your *Evidence of Coverage*.

- Most people pay a standard monthly Part D premium. However, some people pay an extra amount because of their yearly income. If your income is \$85,000 or above for an individual (or married individuals filing separately) or \$170,000 or above for married couples, you must pay an extra amount for your Medicare Part D coverage. If you have to pay an extra amount, the Social Security Administration, not your Medicare plan, will send you a letter telling you what that extra amount will be. For more information about Part D premiums based on income, go to Chapter 4, Section 11 of this booklet. You can also visit <http://www.medicare.gov> on the web or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. Or you may call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778.

SECTION 3

PART D PRESCRIPTION DRUGS: CHANGES TO YOUR BENEFITS AND “OUT-OF-POCKET” COSTS

Changes to the List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)

The Basic and Enhanced Medicare Rx Options have a “List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)” – or “Drug List” for short. It tells which Part D prescription drugs are covered by the plan. (Chapter 3, Section 1.1 of your *Evidence of Coverage* explains about Part D drugs.)

We may make changes to the plan’s Drug List from time to time throughout the year. In addition, there

are a number of changes to the Drug List that will take effect on January 1, 2012. Changes to the plan’s Drug List have been approved by Medicare.

- **We have added some new drugs to the list and removed others.** We have added some new drugs that became available. We have replaced some brand name drugs with new generic drugs. We have replaced some expensive drugs with less costly drugs that have been shown to work just as well or better. We have removed a few drugs due to safety concerns or because medical research has shown they are not effective.
- **We have added some new restrictions to certain drugs, and reduced the restrictions on others.** Restrictions can include a requirement to get plan approval in advance or to try a different drug first to see how well it works. Restrictions can also include limits on the quantity of the drug that the plan will cover for you.
 - If there is a restriction for your drug, it usually means that you or your provider will have to take extra steps in order for us to cover the drug. If there is a restriction on the drug you want to take, you should contact Prescription Solutions to learn what you or your provider would need to do to get coverage for the drug.

Please check to see if any of these changes to drug coverage affect the drugs you use.

You can look for your drugs on the Drug List we sent with this *Notice of Change*. The Drug List we sent includes many of the drugs that we cover, but it does not include all of our covered drugs. If you can’t find some of your drugs on this Drug List, you may find them on a complete Drug List, which includes all the drugs we cover. You can get the complete Drug List by calling the HOP Administration Unit or visiting our website (www.HOPbenefits.com).

Changes to your “out-of-pocket” costs

Every drug on the plan’s Drug List is in one of four cost-sharing tiers. Medicare allows us to **change**

what you pay for a drug in each cost-sharing tier only once a year. The changes shown below will take effect on January 1, 2012, and stay the same for the entire plan year.

Besides the changes to coinsurance and maximums you see below, there is another change that could affect what you pay for your drugs next year. **We have moved some of the drugs on the Drug List to a different cost-sharing tier.** Some drugs will be in a lower cost-sharing tier, others will be in a higher cost-sharing tier. To see if any of your drugs have been moved to a different cost-sharing tier, look them up on the Drug List.

Changes to what you pay for your drugs during the Initial Coverage Stage

During the Initial Coverage Stage, the plan pays its share of the cost of your covered prescription drugs, and you pay your share (your copay or coinsurance amount).

The chart below summarizes changes to what you will pay as your share of the cost of covered prescription drugs when you are in the Initial Coverage Stage. These changes affect Part D prescription drugs only.

The costs in the chart are for prescriptions filled at network, retail pharmacies. Generally, we cover drugs filled at an out-of-network pharmacy only when you are not able to use a network pharmacy. There may be restrictions for prescriptions filled at out-of-network pharmacies, such as a limit on the amount of the drug you can receive. See Chapter 3, Section 2.5 of the *Evidence of Coverage* for more information.

	BASIC MEDICARE Rx OPTION		ENHANCED MEDICARE Rx OPTION	
	2011 (this year)	2012 (next year)	2011 (this year)	2012 (next year)
Generic Drugs For a generic drug that is filled at a network pharmacy	\$7 per prescription for up to a 33-day supply; \$21 per prescription for a 34- to 90-day supply	\$7 per prescription for up to a 33-day supply; \$21 per prescription for a 34- to 90-day supply	\$7 per prescription for up to a 33-day supply; \$21 per prescription for a 34- to 90-day supply	\$7 per prescription for up to a 33-day supply; \$21 per prescription for a 34- to 90-day supply
Preferred Brand Name Drugs For a preferred brand name drug that is filled at a network pharmacy	30% of the total cost (to a maximum of \$75 for an 84- to 90-day supply)	30% of the total cost (to a maximum of \$50 for up to a 33-day supply and \$100 for a 34- to 90-day supply)	25% of the total cost (to a maximum of \$75 for an 84- to 90-day supply)	25% of the total cost (to a maximum of \$50 for up to a 33-day supply and \$90 for a 34- to 90-day supply)
Non-Preferred Brand Name Drugs For a non-preferred brand name drug that is filled at a network pharmacy		40% (no maximum)		25% of the total cost (to a maximum of \$50 for up to a 33-day supply and \$90 for a 34- to 90-day supply)
Specialty Drugs For a specialty drug that is filled at a network pharmacy	33%	33%	33%	33%

Changes to the plan's drug payment stages

The chart below summarizes changes to the plan's Drug Payment Stages. These changes affect Part D prescription drugs only.

	BASIC MEDICARE Rx OPTION		ENHANCED MEDICARE Rx OPTION	
	2011 (this year)	2012 (next year)	2011 (this year)	2012 (next year)
<p>Initial Coverage Stage</p> <p>During the Initial Coverage Stage, the plan pays its share of the cost of your covered drugs, and you pay your share. (Changes to your share of the costs are described in the previous chart.)</p> <p>You stay in this stage until your year-to-date "total drug costs" total \$2,930. Once you reach this limit, you move on to the Coverage Gap Stage.</p>	<p>\$2,840</p> <p>When the total cost for your Part D drugs reaches this amount, you move on to the Coverage Gap Stage.</p>	<p>\$2,930</p> <p>When the total cost for your Part D drugs reaches this amount, you move on to the Coverage Gap Stage.</p>	<p>\$2,840</p> <p>When the total cost for your Part D drugs reaches this amount, you move on to the Coverage Gap Stage.</p>	<p>\$2,930</p> <p>When the total cost for your Part D drugs reaches this amount, you move on to the Coverage Gap Stage.</p>
<p>Coverage Gap Stage</p> <p>You stay in the Coverage Gap Stage until your out-of-pocket costs for your Part D drugs reach the amount that qualifies you for Catastrophic Coverage.</p>	<p>During the Coverage Gap Stage, you pay 50% of the price (plus the dispensing fee) for brand name drugs and 93% of the price for generic drugs.</p> <p>You stay in this stage until your out-of-pocket costs reach:</p> <p>\$4,550</p> <p>This is the amount you must pay out-of-pocket to leave the Coverage Gap Stage and qualify for Catastrophic Coverage.</p>	<p>During the Coverage Gap Stage, you pay 50% of the price (plus the dispensing fee) for brand name drugs and 86% of the price for generic drugs.</p> <p>You stay in this stage until your out-of-pocket costs reach:</p> <p>\$4,700</p> <p>This is the amount you must pay out-of-pocket to leave the Coverage Gap Stage and qualify for Catastrophic Coverage.</p>	<p>During the Coverage Gap Stage, you pay 50% of the price (plus the dispensing fee) for brand name drugs and 50% of the cost of generic drugs (to a maximum of \$7 for up to a 33-day supply or \$21 for a 34- to 90-day supply).</p> <p>You stay in this stage until your out-of-pocket costs reach:</p> <p>\$4,550</p> <p>This is the amount you must pay out-of-pocket to leave the Coverage Gap Stage and qualify for Catastrophic Coverage.</p>	<p>During the Coverage Gap Stage, you pay 50% of the price (plus the dispensing fee) for brand name drugs and 50% of the cost of generic drugs (to a maximum of \$7 for up to a 33-day supply or \$21 for a 34- to 90-day supply).</p> <p>You stay in this stage until your out-of-pocket costs reach:</p> <p>\$4,700</p> <p>This is the amount you must pay out-of-pocket to leave the Coverage Gap Stage and qualify for Catastrophic Coverage.</p>
<p>Catastrophic Coverage Stage</p> <p>During the Catastrophic Coverage Stage, the plan will pay most of the cost for your Part D drugs.</p> <p>You will stay in this stage until the end of the calendar year.</p>	<p>For generic drugs, you pay the greater of 5% or \$2.50 to a maximum of \$100. For brand name drugs, you pay the greater of 5% or \$6.30 to a maximum of \$100.</p>	<p>For generic drugs, you pay the greater of 5% or \$2.60 to a maximum of \$100. For brand name drugs, you pay the greater of 5% or \$6.50 to a maximum of \$100.</p>	<p>For generic drugs, you pay the greater of 5% or \$2.50 to a maximum of \$100. For brand name drugs, you pay the greater of 5% or \$6.30 to a maximum of \$100.</p>	<p>For generic drugs, you pay the greater of 5% or \$2.60 to a maximum of \$100. For brand name drugs, you pay the greater of 5% or \$6.50 to a maximum of \$100.</p>

What if changes for 2012 affect drugs you are taking now?

What if a drug you are taking now is not on the Drug List for 2012? What if it has been moved to a higher cost-sharing tier? What if a new restriction has been added to the coverage for this drug? If you are in any of these situations, here's what you can do:

- **Perhaps you can find a different drug** covered by the plan that might work just as well for you. You can call Prescription Solutions to ask for a list of covered drugs that treat the same medical condition. This list can help your doctor or other prescriber to find a covered drug that might work for you.
- **You and your doctor can ask the plan to make an exception for you** and cover the drug. You can ask for an exception in advance for next year. To learn what you must do to ask for an exception, see the *Evidence of Coverage* section of this booklet. Look for Chapter 7 (*What to do if you have a problem or complaint*).

SECTION 4

DO YOU WANT TO STAY IN THE PLAN OR MAKE A CHANGE?

Do you want to stay with the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option?

If you want to keep your membership in the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option for 2012, it's easy. You don't need to tell us or fill out any paperwork. **You will automatically remain enrolled as a member if you do not sign up for a different plan.**

Do you want to make a change?

If you decide to leave the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option, you can switch to a different Medicare prescription drug plan or to a Medicare health plan (either with or without Medicare prescription drug coverage). You can also cancel your enrollment and keep Original Medicare without a Medicare prescription drug plan. (If you disenroll from Medicare prescription drug coverage and go without creditable prescription drug coverage, you may need to pay a late enrollment penalty if you join a Medicare drug plan later. See Chapter 4, Section 10 for more information about the late enrollment penalty.)

If you want to change to a different plan, there are many choices. As a reminder, you can switch from the Basic to the Enhanced Medicare Rx Option, and vice versa. The other plan may differ in coverage, monthly premiums, and cost sharing amounts. If you have access to the Internet, you can find information about plans available in your area by using the Medicare Plan Finder on the Medicare website. (To view the information about plans, go to <http://www.medicare.gov> and click on the "Health & Drug Plans" button on the left. Then choose "Compare Drug and Health Plans.") You can also get information about plans from Medicare or from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program. (For numbers to call, see Section 5 of this Annual Notice of Changes.)

When can you change to a different plan?

During the **Option Selection Period from early October through November 15, 2011**, you can change to another Medicare prescription drug plan, the HOP Medical Plan without a separate Medicare prescription drug plan, or a Medicare Advantage plan. Your new coverage will begin on January 1, 2012. (If you disenroll from Medicare prescription drug coverage and go without creditable prescription drug coverage, you may need to pay a late enrollment penalty if you join a Medicare drug plan later. See Chapter 4, Section 10 for more information about the late enrollment penalty.)

Is this the only time of the year to choose a different plan?

For most people, yes. Certain individuals, such as those with Medicaid, those who get Extra Help paying for their drugs, those who move out of the geographic service area, and those who experience a Qualifying Event can make changes at other times. For more information, see Chapter 8, Section 2.2 of the *Evidence of Coverage*.

How do you make a change?

See Chapter 8 of the enclosed *Evidence of Coverage* document. It tells what you need to do to make a change from the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option to another plan.

Things to check on before you make a change

- **Are you a member of an employer or retiree group?** If you are, please check with the benefits administrator of your employer or retiree group *before you change your plan*. This is important because you may lose benefits you currently receive under your employer or retiree group coverage if you switch plans.

- **Are you getting help with paying for your drugs from a State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program (SPAP)?** If you are, please check with this program before switching to another prescription drug plan. The phone number for your State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program is listed in Chapter 2, Section 7 of the *Evidence of Coverage*.

SECTION 5**DO YOU NEED SOME HELP? WOULD YOU LIKE MORE INFORMATION?****We have information and answers for you**

To learn more, read the information we sent in the same package with this *Annual Notice of Changes*. This includes copies of the *Evidence of Coverage* and the *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)*.

If you have any questions, we are here to help. Please call Prescription Solutions at 1-888-239-1301. (TTY only, call 1-800-498-5428.) We are available for phone calls 24 hours/7 days a week. Calls to these numbers are free.

You can get help and information from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is a government program with trained counselors in every state. It is independent (not connected with any insurance company or health plan). It is a state program that gets money from the Federal government to give **free** local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare. SHIP counselors can help you with your Medicare questions or problems. They can help you understand your Medicare plan choices and answer questions about switching plans. A list of phone numbers for the SHIP in each state is in Chapter 2, Section 3 of your *Evidence of Coverage*.

You can get help and information from Medicare

Here are three ways to get information directly from Medicare:

- **Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)** 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- **Visit the Medicare website** (<http://www.medicare.gov>).
- **Read the *Medicare & You 2012 Handbook*.** Every year in the fall, this booklet is mailed to people with Medicare. It has a summary of Medicare benefits, rights and protections, and answers to the most frequently asked questions about Medicare. If you don't have a copy of this booklet, you can get it at the Medicare website (<http://www.medicare.gov>) or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

BASIC AND ENHANCED MEDICARE Rx OPTIONS

EVIDENCE OF COVERAGE

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2012

This section, called ***Evidence of Coverage***, gives you the details about your Medicare prescription drug coverage from January 1 - December 31, 2012. It explains how to get the prescription drugs you need. This is an important legal document. Please keep it in a safe place.

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SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

Section 1.1 You are enrolled in the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option, which is a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan

You have chosen to get your Medicare prescription drug coverage through our plan, the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option.

There are different types of Medicare plans. The Basic and Enhanced Medicare Rx Options are Medicare prescription drug plans (PDPs). Like all Medicare plans, these Medicare prescription drug plans are approved by Medicare and run by a private company.

Section 1.2 What is the *Evidence of Coverage* about?

This *Evidence of Coverage* tells you how to get your Medicare prescription drug coverage through our plan, a Medicare prescription drug plan. This booklet explains your rights and responsibilities, what is covered, and what you pay as a member of the plan.

This plan is offered by the Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS), referred throughout the *Evidence of Coverage* as “we,” “us,” or “our.” The Health Options Program (HOP) is referred to as “plan” or “our plan.”

The words “coverage” and “covered drugs” refer to the prescription drug coverage available to you as a member of the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option.

Section 1.3 What does this Chapter tell you?

Look through Chapter 1 of this *Evidence of Coverage* to learn:

- What makes you eligible to be a plan member?
- What is your plan's service area?
- What materials will you get from us?
- What is your plan premium and how can you pay it?
- How do you keep the information in your membership record up to date?

Section 1.4 What if you are new to the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option?

If you are a new member, then it's important for you to learn how the plan operates – what the rules are and what coverage is available to you. We encourage you to set aside some time to look through this *Evidence of Coverage* booklet.

If you are confused or concerned or just have a question, please contact Prescription Solutions for information about prescription drugs or the HOP Administration Unit for information about enrollment, billing, or ID cards (contact information is on the cover of this booklet).

Section 1.5 Legal information about the *Evidence of Coverage*

It's part of our contract with you

This *Evidence of Coverage* is part of our contract with you about how the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option covers your care. Other parts of this contract include your enrollment form, the *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)*, and any notices you receive from us about changes or extra conditions that can affect your coverage. These notices are sometimes called “riders” or “amendments.”

The contract is in effect for months in which you are enrolled in the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option between January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012.

Medicare must approve our plan each year

Medicare (the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) must approve the Basic and Enhanced Medicare Rx Options each year. You can continue to get Medicare coverage as a member of our plan only as long as we choose to continue to offer the plan for the year in question and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services renews its approval of the plan.

SECTION 2 WHAT MAKES YOU ELIGIBLE TO BE A PLAN MEMBER?

Section 2.1 Your eligibility requirements

You are eligible for membership in our plan as long as:

- You live in our geographic service area (section 2.3 below describes our service area), *and*

- You are entitled to Medicare Part A or you are enrolled in Medicare Part B (or you have both Part A and Part B)

Section 2.2 What are Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B?

When you originally signed up for Medicare, you received information about how to get Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B. Remember:

- Medicare Part A generally covers services furnished by providers such as hospitals, skilled nursing facilities or home health agencies.
- Medicare Part B is for most other medical services, such as physician's services and other outpatient services.

Section 2.3 Here is the plan service area for the Basic and Enhanced Medicare Rx Options

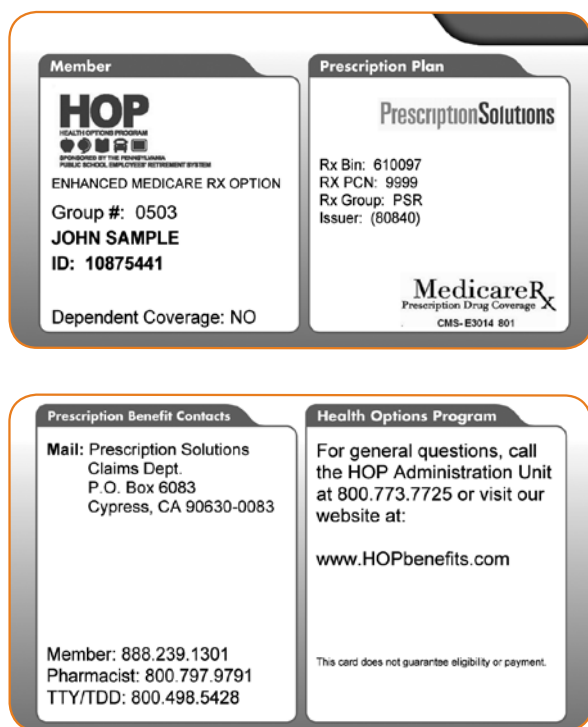
Although Medicare is a Federal program, the Basic and Enhanced Medicare Rx Options are available only to individuals who are eligible to enroll in HOP and live in our plan service area. To remain a member of our plan, you must keep living in this service area. We offer coverage throughout the United States. If you plan to move out of the country, please contact the HOP Administration Unit. When you move, you will have a Special Enrollment Period that will allow you to enroll in a Medicare health or drug plan that is available in your new location.

SECTION 3

WHAT OTHER MATERIALS WILL YOU GET FROM US?

Section 3.1 Your plan membership card – Use it to get all covered prescription drugs

While you are a member of our plan, you must use our membership card for prescription drugs you get at network pharmacies. Here's a sample membership card to show you what yours will look like:



Please carry your card with you at all times and remember to show your card when you get covered drugs. If your plan membership card is damaged, lost, or stolen, call the HOP Administration Unit right away and we will send you a new card.

You may need to use your red, white, and blue Medicare card to get covered medical care and services under Original Medicare.

Section 3.2 The Pharmacy Directory: your guide to pharmacies in our network

Every year, we update the Pharmacy Directory that is posted online at www.HOPbenefits.com. This directory lists our network pharmacies.

What are “network pharmacies”?

Our *Pharmacy Directory* gives you a complete list of our network pharmacies – that means all of the pharmacies that have agreed to fill covered prescriptions for our plan members.

Why do you need to know about network pharmacies?

You can use the *Pharmacy Directory* to find the network pharmacy you want to use. This is important because, with few exceptions, you must get your prescriptions filled at one of our network pharmacies if you want our plan to cover (help you pay for) them. You can find a Pharmacy Directory for your state online at www.HOPbenefits.com. At any time, you can call Prescription Solutions to get up-to-date information about changes in the pharmacy network.

Section 3.3 The plan's List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)

The plan has a *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)*. We call it the “Drug List” for short. It tells which Part D prescription drugs are covered by the Basic and Enhanced Medicare Rx Options. The drugs on this list are selected by the plan with the help of a team of doctors and pharmacists. The list must meet requirements set by Medicare. Medicare has approved the Basic and Enhanced Medicare Rx Options Drug List.

The Drug List also tells you if there are any rules that restrict coverage for your drugs.

We will send you a copy of the Drug List. The Drug List we send to you includes information for the

covered drugs that are most commonly used by our members. However, we cover additional drugs that are not included in the printed Drug List. To get the most complete and current information about which drugs are covered, you can visit the plan's website (www.HOPbenefits.com) or call the HOP Administration Unit (phone numbers are on the front cover of this booklet).

Section 3.4 The *Explanation of Benefits* (the “EOB”): Reports with a summary of payments made for your prescription drugs

When you use your prescription drug benefits, we will send you a report to help you understand and keep track of payments for your prescription drugs. This summary report is called the *Explanation of Benefits*.

The *Explanation of Benefits* tells you the total amount you have spent on your prescription drugs and the total amount we have paid for each of your prescription drugs during the month. Chapter 4 (*What you pay for your Part D prescription drugs*) gives more information about the *Explanation of Benefits* and how it can help you keep track of your drug coverage.

An *Explanation of Benefits* summary is also available upon request. To get a copy, please contact Prescription Solutions.

SECTION 4

YOUR MONTHLY PREMIUM FOR THE BASIC OR ENHANCED MEDICARE Rx OPTION

Section 4.1 How much is your plan premium?

As a member of our plan, you pay a monthly plan premium. For 2012, the monthly premium is:

- \$27 for the Basic Medicare Rx Option
- \$81 for the Enhanced Medicare Rx Option.

In some situations, your plan premium could be less

There are programs to help people with limited resources pay for their drugs. These include “Extra Help” and State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs. Chapter 2, Section 7 tells more about these programs. If you qualify for one of these programs, enrolling in the program might lower your monthly plan premium.

If you are *already enrolled* and getting help from one of these programs, **the information about premiums in this *Evidence of Coverage* may not apply to you.** We send you a separate insert, called the “Evidence of Coverage Rider for People Who Get Extra Help Paying for Prescription Drugs” (LIS Rider), that tells you about your drug coverage. If you don't have this insert, please call the HOP Administration Unit. Phone numbers for the HOP Administration Unit are on the front cover.

In some situations, your plan premium could be more

In some situations, your plan premium could be more than the amount listed above in Section 4.1. These situations are described below.

- Most people pay a standard monthly Part D premium. However, some people pay an extra amount because of their yearly income. If your

income is \$85,000 or above for an individual (or married individuals filing separately) or \$170,000 or above for married couples, you must pay an extra amount for your Medicare Part D coverage. If you have to pay an extra amount, the Social Security Administration, not your Medicare plan, will send you a letter telling you what that extra amount will be. For more information about Part D premiums based on income, go to Chapter 4, Section 11 of this booklet. You can also visit <http://www.medicare.gov> on the web or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. Or you may call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778.

- Some members are required to pay a **late enrollment penalty** because they did not join a Medicare drug plan when they first became eligible or because they had a continuous period of 63 days or more when they didn't have "creditable" prescription drug coverage. ("Creditable" means the drug coverage is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage.) For these members, the late enrollment penalty is added to the plan's monthly premium. Their premium amount will be the monthly plan premium plus the amount of their late enrollment penalty.

If you are required to pay the late enrollment penalty, the amount of your penalty depends on how long you waited before you enrolled in drug coverage or how many months you were without drug coverage after you became eligible. Chapter 4, Section 10 explains the late enrollment penalty.

If you have a late enrollment penalty, it is part of your plan premium. If you do not pay the part of your premium that is the late enrollment penalty, you could be disenrolled for failure to pay your plan premium.

Many members are required to pay other Medicare premiums

Some plan members will be paying a premium for Medicare Part A and most plan members will be paying a premium for Medicare Part B, in addition to paying the monthly Part D plan premium.

- Your copy of *Medicare & You 2012* tells about these premiums in the section called "2012 Medicare Costs." This explains how the Part B premium differs for people with different incomes.
- Everyone with Medicare receives a copy of *Medicare & You* each year in the fall. Those new to Medicare receive it within a month after first signing up. You can also download a copy of *Medicare & You 2012* from the Medicare website (<http://www.medicare.gov>). Or, you can order a printed copy by phone at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.

Section 4.2 There are several ways members pay plan premiums

There are different ways you can pay your plan premium.

Method 1: The plan premium is taken out of your monthly PSERS retirement benefit

If you can pay your entire premium (including your medical premium with your PSERS retirement benefit, it is deducted from your monthly PSERS retirement benefit.

Method 2: You pay by check

If you are in the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx option on a standalone basis (without medical coverage) or you cannot pay your entire premium (including your medical premium) with your PSERS retirement benefit, you must pay your monthly plan premium directly to our plan. If you make direct payment, you will receive a coupon book prior to your coverage effective date. The monthly coupon and check must be mailed to HOP, PO Box 64979, Baltimore, MD 21264-4979 by the 25th day of the prior month. If you run out of coupons or lose your coupon book, call the HOP Administration Unit.

Contact the HOP Administration Unit if you have any questions about your plan premiums.

What to do if you are having trouble paying your plan premium

If you pay by check, your plan premium is due in our office by the the 25th day of the prior month. If we have not received your premium, we will send you a notice telling you that your plan membership will end if we do not receive your premium within 60 days.

If you are having trouble paying your premium on time, please contact the HOP Administration Unit to see if we can direct you to programs that will help with your plan premium. If we end your membership with the plan because of non-payment of premiums, and you don't currently have prescription drug coverage, then you will not be able to receive Part D coverage until the annual election period. At that time, you may either join a standalone prescription drug plan or a health plan that also provides drug coverage. (If you go without "creditable" drug coverage for more than 63 days, you may have to pay a premium penalty when you sign up for a Part D plan.)

If we end your membership due to non-payment of premiums, you will still have coverage under Original Medicare. At the time we end your membership, you may still owe us for premiums you have not paid. In the future, you can enroll again in our plan (or another plan that we offer) only if you experience a Qualifying Event and pay these late premiums.

Section 4.3 Can we change your monthly plan premium during the year?

No. We are not allowed to change the amount we charge for the plan's monthly plan premium during the year. If the monthly plan premium changes for next year, we will tell you in October and the change will take effect on January 1.

However, in some cases the part of the premium that you have to pay can change during the year. This happens if you become eligible for the Extra Help program or if you lose your eligibility for the Extra Help program during the year. If a member qualifies for Extra Help with their prescription drug costs, the Extra Help program will pay part of the member's monthly plan premium. So a member who becomes eligible for Extra Help during the year would begin to pay less toward their monthly premium. And a member who loses their eligibility during the year will need to start paying their full monthly premium. You can find out more about the Extra Help program in Chapter 2, Section 7.

SECTION 5

PLEASE KEEP YOUR PLAN MEMBERSHIP RECORD UP TO DATE

Section 5.1 How to help make sure that we have accurate information about you

Your membership record has information from your enrollment form, including your address and telephone number. It shows your specific plan coverage.

The pharmacists in the plan's network need to have correct information about you. **These network providers use your membership record to know what drugs are covered for you.**

Because of this, it is very important that you help us keep your information up to date.

Call the HOP Administration Unit to let us know about these changes:

- Changes to your name, your address, or your phone number
- Changes in any other medical or drug insurance coverage you have (such as from your employer, your spouse's employer, workers' compensation, or Medicaid)
- If you have any liability claims, such as claims from an automobile accident
- If you have been admitted to a nursing home
- If your designated responsible party (such as a caregiver) changes

Read over the information we send you about any other insurance coverage you have

That's because we must coordinate any other coverage you have with your benefits under our plan. (For more information about how our coverage works when you have other insurance, see Section 7 in this chapter.)

Once each year, we will send you a letter that lists any other medical or drug insurance coverage that we know about. Please read over this information carefully. If it is correct, you don't need to do anything. If the information is incorrect, or if you have other coverage that is not listed, please call the HOP Administration Unit (phone numbers are on the cover of this booklet).

SECTION 6

WE PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF YOUR PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

Section 6.1 We make sure that your health information is protected

Federal and state laws protect the privacy of your medical records and personal health information. We protect your personal health information as required by these laws.

For more information about how we protect your personal health information, please go to Chapter 6, Section 1.4 of this booklet.

SECTION 7

HOW OTHER INSURANCE WORKS WITH OUR PLAN

Section 7.1 Which plan pays first when you have other insurance?

When you have other insurance (like employer group health coverage), there are rules set by Medicare that decide whether our plan or your other insurance pays first. The insurance that pays first is called the “primary payer” and pays up to the limits of its coverage. The one that pays second, called the “secondary payer,” only pays if there are costs left uncovered by the primary coverage. The secondary payer may not pay all of the uncovered costs.

These rules apply for employer or union group health plan coverage:

- If you have retiree coverage, Medicare pays first.
- If your group health plan coverage is based on your or a family member’s current employment, who pays first depends on your age, the size of the employer, and whether you have Medicare based on age, disability, or End-stage Renal Disease (ESRD):
 - If you’re under 65 and disabled and you or your family member is still working, your plan pays first if the employer has 100 or more employees or at least one employer in a multiple employer plan has more than 100 employees.
 - If you’re over 65 and you or your spouse is still working, the plan pays first if the employer has 20 or more employees or at least one employer in a multiple employer plan has more than 20 employees.

- If you have Medicare because of ESRD, your group health plan will pay first for the first 30 months after you become eligible for Medicare.

These types of coverage usually pay first for services related to each type:

- No-fault insurance (including automobile insurance)
- Liability (including automobile insurance)
- Black lung benefits
- Workers’ compensation

Medicaid and TRICARE never pay first for Medicare-covered services. They only pay after Medicare, employer group health plans, and/or Medigap have paid.

If you have other insurance, tell your doctor, hospital, and pharmacy. If you have questions about who pays first, or you need to update your other insurance information, call Member Services (phone numbers are on the back cover of this booklet). You may need to give your plan member ID number to your other insurers (once you have confirmed their identity) so your bills are paid correctly and on time.

CHAPTER 2 IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND RESOURCES

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SECTION 1

CONTACTS FOR THE BASIC AND ENHANCED MEDICARE Rx OPTIONS (HOW TO CONTACT US, INCLUDING HOW TO REACH MEMBER SERVICES AT THE PLAN)

How to contact our plan's Member Services

For assistance with enrollment, billing or ID card questions, please call or write to the HOP Administration Unit. We will be happy to help you.

CALL	1-800-773-7725 (Calls to this number are free.) 8 am – 5 pm ET, Monday through Friday
TTY/TDD	1-800-498-5428. This number requires special telephone equipment. (Calls to this number are free.)
FAX	1-866-336-7124
WRITE	HOP Administration Unit P.O. Box 1764 Lancaster, PA 17608-1764
VISIT	1280 N. Plum Street Lancaster, PA 17601
WEBSITE	www.HOPbenefits.com

How to contact us when you are asking for a coverage decision, or making an appeal and/or complaint about your Part D prescription drugs

You may call Prescription Solutions with questions about our coverage decision process, appeals and/or complaints. A coverage decision is a decision we make about your benefits and coverage or about the amount we will pay for your Part D prescription drugs. An appeal is a formal way of asking us to review and change a coverage decision we have made. You can make a complaint about us or one of our network pharmacies, including a complaint about the quality of your care. This type of complaint does not involve coverage or payment disputes. (If your problem is about the plan's coverage or payment, you should look at the section above about making an appeal.)

CALL	1-888-239-1301 (Calls to this number are free.) 24 hours/7 days a week. Physicians can call 1-800-711-4555 for a standard or expedited coverage determination 24 hours/seven days a week.
TTY/TDD	1-800-498-5428. This number requires special telephone equipment. (Calls to this number are free.)
FAX	1-877-239-4565. Physicians can fax 1-800-527-0531 for a standard or expedited coverage determination
WRITE	Part D Appeal & Grievance Department Mail Stop CA106-0286 3515 Harbor Boulevard Costa Mesa, CA 92626
VISIT	Part D Appeal & Grievance Department 3515 Harbor Boulevard Costa Mesa, CA 92626

For more information on asking for coverage decisions, appeals and complaints about your Part D prescription drugs, see Chapter 7, entitled *What to do if you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)*.

Where to send a request that asks us to pay for our share of the cost of a drug you have received

The coverage determination process includes determining requests that ask us to pay for our share of the costs of a drug that you have received. For more information on situations in which you may need to ask the plan for reimbursement or to pay a bill you have received from a provider, see Chapter 5 (*Asking the plan to pay its share of the cost of a drug*).

CALL	1-888-239-1301 (Calls to this number are free.) 24 hours/7 days a week 8 am – 5 pm ET, Monday through Friday
TTY/TDD	1-800-498-5428. This number requires special telephone equipment. (Calls to this number are free.)
WRITE	Prescription Solutions P.O. Box 29046 Hot Springs, AR 71903

SECTION 2

MEDICARE (HOW TO GET HELP AND INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM THE FEDERAL MEDICARE PROGRAM)

Medicare is the Federal health insurance program for people 65 years of age or older, some people under age 65 with disabilities, and people with end-stage renal disease (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant).

The Federal agency in charge of Medicare is the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (sometimes called “CMS”). This agency contracts with Medicare Prescription Drug Plans, including us.

MEDICARE	
CALL	<p>1-800-MEDICARE, or 1-800-633-4227 (Calls to this number are free.)</p> <p>24 hours a day, 7 days a week.</p>
TTY	<p>1-877-486-2048</p> <p>This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking.</p> <p>Calls to this number are free.</p>
WEBSITE	<p>http://www.medicare.gov</p> <p>This is the official government website for Medicare. It gives you up-to-date information about Medicare and current Medicare issues. It also has information about hospitals, nursing homes, physicians, home health agencies, and dialysis facilities. It includes booklets you can print directly from your computer. You can also find Medicare contacts in your state by selecting “Help and Support” and then clicking on “Useful Phone Numbers and Websites.”</p> <p>The Medicare website also has detailed information about your Medicare eligibility and enrollment options with the following tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Medicare Eligibility Tool: Provides Medicare eligibility status information. Select “Find Out if You’re Eligible.” ■ Medicare Plan Finder: Provides personalized information about available Medicare prescription drug plans, Medicare health plans, and Medigap (Medicare Supplement Insurance) policies in your area. Select “Health & Drug Plans” and then “Compare Drug and Health Plans” or “Compare Medigap Policies.” These tools provide an <i>estimate</i> of what your out-of-pocket costs might be in different Medicare plans. <p>If you don’t have a computer, your local library or senior center may be able to help you visit this website using its computer. Or, you can call Medicare at the number above and tell them what information you are looking for. They will find the information on the website, print it out, and send it to you.</p>

SECTION 3

STATE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FREE HELP, INFORMATION, AND ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT MEDICARE)

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is a government program with trained counselors in every state. It is independent (not connected with any insurance company or health plan). SHIP is a state program that gets money from the Federal government to give free local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare.

SHIP counselors in your state can help you with your Medicare questions or problems. They can help you understand your Medicare rights, help you make complaints about your medical care or treatment, and help you straighten out problems with your Medicare bills.

SHIP counselors can also help you understand your Medicare plan choices and answer questions about switching plans.

STATE	TOLL-FREE	LOCAL NUMBER	LOCAL TTY
Alabama	1-800-243-5463	1-334-242-5743	1-334-242-0995
Alaska	1-800-478-6065	1-907-269-3680	1-907-269-3691
Arizona	1-800-432-4040	1-602-542-6595	1-602-542-6366
Arkansas	1-800-224-6330	1-501-371-2782	
California	1-800-434-0222		
Colorado	1-888-696-7213	1-303-894-7552	1-303-894-7880
Connecticut	1-800-994-9422	1-860-424-5862	1-860-842-5424
Delaware	1-800-336-9500	1-302-739-6266	
District of Columbia		1-202-739-0668	1-202-973-1079
Florida	1-800-963-5337	1-850-414-2060	1-850-414-2001
Georgia	1-800-669-8387	1-404-657-5334	
Hawaii	1-888-875-9229	1-808-586-7299	
Idaho	1-800-247-4422		
Illinois	1-800-548-9034	1-217-785-9021	1-217-524-4872
Indiana	1-800-452-4800		
Iowa	1-800-351-4664	1-515-281-5705	
Kansas	1-800-860-5260	1-316-337-7389	
Kentucky	1-877-293-7447		

STATE	TOLL-FREE	LOCAL NUMBER	LOCAL TTY
Louisiana	1-800-259-5301	1-225-342-5301	
Maine	1-877-353-3771	1-207-621-0087	
Maryland	1-800-243-3425	1-410-767-1100	1-410-767-1083
Massachusetts	1-800-243-4636		
Michigan	1-800-803-7174	1-517-886-1242	
Minnesota	1-800-333-2433		
Mississippi	1-800-948-3090	1-601-359-4929	
Missouri		1-573-817-8320	
Montana	1-800-551-3191	1-406-444-7870	
Nebraska	1-800-234-7119	1-402-471-2201	
Nevada	1-800-307-4444	1-702-486-3478	
New Hampshire	1-800-852-3388	1-603-225-9000	
New Jersey	1-800-792-8820	1-609-943-3435	
New Mexico	1-800-432-2080	1-505-476-4828	
New York	1-800-333-4114	1-212-869-3850	
North Carolina	1-800-443-9354	1-919-733-0111	
North Dakota	1-800-247-0560	1-701-328-2440	
Ohio	1-800-686-1578	1-614-644-3458	1-614-644-3745
Oklahoma	1-800-763-2828	1-405-521-6628	
Oregon	1-800-722-4134	1-503-947-7984	1-503-947-7280
Pennsylvania	1-800-783-7067		
Rhode Island		1-401-462-4444	1-401-462-0740
South Carolina	1-800-868-9095	1-803-734-9900	
South Dakota	1-800-536-8197	1-605-773-3656	1-605-367-5760
Tennessee	1-877-801-0044	1-615-741-2056	1-615-532-3893
Texas	1-800-252-9240	1-512-438-3200	
Utah	1-877-424-4640 1-800-541-7735	1-801-538-3910	

STATE	TOLL-FREE	LOCAL NUMBER	LOCAL TTY
Vermont	1-800-642-5119	1-802-748-5182	
Virginia	1-800-552-3402	1-804-662-9333	
Washington	1-800-562-6900	1-360-725-7073	1-360-586-0241
West Virginia	1-877-987-4463	1-304-558-3317	
Wisconsin	1-800-242-1060		
Wyoming	1-800-856-4398	1-307-856-6880	

SECTION 4

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ORGANIZATION (PAID BY MEDICARE TO CHECK ON THE QUALITY OF CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE)

There is a Quality Improvement Organization in each state. The Quality Improvement Organization has a group of doctors and other health care professionals who are paid by the Federal government. This organization is paid by Medicare to check on and help improve the quality of care for people with Medicare. It is an independent organization. It is not connected with our plan.

You should contact the Quality Improvement Organization in your state if you have a complaint about the quality of care you have received. For example, you can contact the Quality Improvement Organization if you were given the wrong medication or if you were given medications that interact in a negative way.

STATE	ADDRESS	TOLL-FREE NUMBER LOCAL NUMBER	WEBSITE
Alabama	2 Perimeter Park S, Suite 200 West Birmingham, AL 35243	1-800-760-4550 1-205-970-1600	www.aqaf.com
Alaska	721 Sesame St., Suite 100 Anchorage, AK 99503	1-888-578-2547 1-907-562-2252	www.qualishealth.org
Arizona	1600 E Northern Ave., Suite 100 Phoenix, AZ 85020-3933	1-800-359-9909 1-602-264-6382	www.hsag.com
Arkansas	401 West Capitol, Suite 400 Little Rock, AR 72201	1-877-375-5700 1-501-375-5700	www.afmc.org
California	One Sansome St., Suite 600 San Francisco, CA 94104	1-800-841-1602 1-415-677-2000	www.lumetra.com
Colorado	2851 South Parker Rd. Suite 1000 Aurora, CO 80014	1-800-950-8250 1-303-695-3300 1-303-695-3314 (TTY)	www.cfmc.org

STATE	ADDRESS	TOLL-FREE NUMBER LOCAL NUMBER	WEBSITE
Connecticut	100 Roscommon Dr., Suite 200 Middletown, CT 06457	1-800-553-7590 1-860-632-2008	www.qualidigm.org
Delaware	Baynard Building, Suite 100 3411 Silverside Road Wilmington, DE 19810-4812	1-866-475-9669 1-302-478-3600	www.qide.org
District of Columbia	1620 L St. NW, Suite 1275 Washington, DC 20036	1-800-999-3362 1-800-492-5811 1-202-293-9650 1-410-822-0697	www.dfmc.org
Florida	5201 W Kennedy Blvd, Suite 900 Tampa, FL 33607	1-800-844-0795 1-813-354-9111	www.fmqai.com
Georgia	1455 Lincoln Parkway, Suite 800 Atlanta, GA 30346	1-800-982-0411 1-404-982-0411	www.gmcf.org
Hawaii	1360 S. Beretania St., Suite 501 Honolulu, HI 96814	1-800-524-6550 1-808-545-2550	www.mpqhf.org
Idaho	720 Park Boulevard, Suite 120 Boise, ID 83712	1-800-488-1118 1-208-343-4617	www.qualishealth.org
Illinois	711 Jorie Blvd, Suite 301 Oakbrook, IL 60523-4425	1-800-647-8089 1-630-928-5800	www.ifqhc.org
Indiana	2629 Waterfront Pkwy East Dr Suite 200 Indianapolis, IN 46214	1-800-288-1499 1-317-347-4500	www.hce.org
Iowa	1776 West Lakes Parkway West Des Moines, IA 50266	1-800-383-2856 1-515-223-2900	www.ifmc.org
Kansas	2947 S.W. Wanamaker Dr. Topeka, KS 66614	1-800-432-0407 1-785-273-2552	www.kfmc.org
Kentucky	1951 Bishop Lane, Suite 300 Louisville, KY 40218.	1-502-454-5112	www.hce.org
Louisiana	8591 United Plaza Blvd Suite 270 Baton Rouge, LA 70809	1-800-433-4958 1-225-926-6353	www.lhcr.org
Maine	15 Old Rollinsford Rd, Suite 100 Farmington Hills, MI 48335-2611	1-800-772-0151 1-603-749-1641	www.nhcqf.org
Maryland	9240 Centreville Rd. Easton, MD 21601	1-800-492-5811 1-410-822-0697	www.dfmc.org
Massachusetts	235 Wyman St. Waltham, MA 02451	1-800-252-5533 1-781-890-0011	www.masspro.org

STATE	ADDRESS	TOLL-FREE NUMBER LOCAL NUMBER	WEBSITE
Michigan	22670 Haggerty Rd., Suite 100 Farmington Hills, MI 48335-2611	1-800-365-5899 1-248-465-7300	www.mpro.org
Minnesota	2901 Metro St., Suite 400 Bloomington, MN 55425	1-800-444-3423 1-952-854-3306	www.stratishealth.org
Mississippi	385B Highland Colony Pkwy, Suite 504 Ridgeland, MS 39157	1-800-844-0600 1-601-957-1575	www.iqh.org
Missouri	200 North Keene St. Columbia, MO 65201	1-800-735-6776 1-573-817-8300	www.primaris.org
Montana	3404 Cooney Dr. Helena, MT 59602	1-800-497-8232 1-406-443-4020	www.mpqhf.org
Nebraska	1230 O Street, Suite 120 Lincoln, NE 68508	1-800-458-4262 1-402-476-1399	www.cimronebraska.org
Nevada	6830 W. Oquendo Rd, Suite 102 Las Vegas, NV 89118	1-800-748-6773 1-702-385-9933	www.healthinsight.org
New Hampshire	15 Old Rollinsford Rd, Suite 302 Dover, NH 03820	1-800-772-0151 1-603-749-1641	www.nhcqf.org
New Jersey	557 Cranbury Rd., Suite 21 East Brunswick, NJ 08816	1-800-624-4557 1-732-238-5570	www.pronj.org
New Mexico	5801 Osuna Road NE, Suite 200 Albuquerque, NM 87109	1-800-663-6351 1-505-998-9898	www.nmmra.org
New York	1979 Marcus Ave., Suite 105 Lake Success, NY 11042	1-800-331-7767 1-516-326-7767	www.ipro.org
North Carolina	100 Regency Forest Dr, Suite 200 Cary, NC 27518-8598	1-800-682-2650 1-919-380-9860	www.mrnc.org
North Dakota	800 31st Ave. SW Minot, ND 58701	1-888-472-2902 1-701-852-4231	www.ndhcri.org
Ohio	Rock Run Center 5700 Lomardo Ctr Dr, Suite 100 Seven Hills, OH 44131	1-800-589-7337 1-216-447-9604	www.ohiokeypro.com
Oklahoma	14000 Quail Springs Pkwy, Suite 400 Oklahoma City, OK 73134	1-405-840-2891	www.ofmq.com

STATE	ADDRESS	TOLL-FREE NUMBER LOCAL NUMBER	WEBSITE
Oregon	202 SW Fourth Ave., Suite 520 Portland, OR 97201-4960	1-503-279-0100	www.ompro.org
Pennsylvania	2601 Market Place St., Suite 320 Harrisburg, PA 17110	1-877-346-6180 1-717-671-5425	www.qjpa.org
Rhode Island	235 Promenade St., Suite 500 Box 18 Providence, RI 02908	1-800-662-5028 1-401-528-3200	www.riqualitypartners.org
South Carolina	246 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 200 Columbia, SC 29210	1-800-922-3089 1-803-251-2215	www.mrnc.org
South Dakota	1323 South Minnesota Ave. Sioux Falls, SD 57105	1-800-658-2285 1-605-336-3505	www.sdfmc.org
Tennessee	3175 Lenox Park Blvd, Suite 309 Memphis, TN 38115	1-800-489-4633 1-901-682-0381	www.qsource.org
Texas	Bridgepoint I, Suite 300 5918 West Courtyard Drive Austin, TX 78730-5036	1-800-725-9216 1-512-329-6610	www.tmf.org
Utah	348 E 4500 South, Suite 300 Salt Lake City, UT 84107	1-800-274-2290 1-801-892-0155	www.healthinsight.org
Vermont	15 Old Rollinsford Rd., Suite 302 Dover, NH 03820	1-800-772-0151 1-603-749-1641	www.nhcqf.org
Virginia	4510 Cox Rd., Suite 400 Glen Allen, VA 23060	1-800-545-3814 1-804-289-5320	www.vhqc.org
Washington	1070 Meridian Ave. North, Suite 100 Seattle, WA 98133	1-877-575-8309 1-206-367-9700 1-206-368-8272	www.qualishealth.org
West Virginia	3001 Chesterfield Place Charleston, WV 25304	1-800-642-8686 1-304-346-9864	www.wvmi.org
Wisconsin	2909 Landmark Place Madison, WI 53713	1-800-362-2320 1-608-274-1940	www.metastar.com
Wyoming	2206 Dell Range Blvd., Suite G Cheyenne, WY 82009	1-877-810-6248 1-307-637-8162	www.mpqhf.org

SECTION 5

SOCIAL SECURITY

Social Security is responsible for determining eligibility and handling enrollment for Medicare. U.S. citizens who are 65 or older, or who have a disability or end stage renal disease and meet certain conditions, are eligible for Medicare. If you are already getting Social Security checks, enrollment into Medicare is automatic. If you are not getting Social Security checks, you have to enroll in Medicare. Social Security handles the enrollment process for Medicare. To apply for Medicare, you can call Social Security or visit your local Social Security office.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION	
CALL	<p>1-800-772-1213 Calls to this number are free.</p> <p>Available 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, Monday through Friday.</p> <p>You can use Social Security's automated telephone services to get recorded information and conduct some business 24 hours a day.</p>
TTY	<p>1-800-325-0778 Calls to this number are free.</p> <p>This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking.</p> <p>Available 7:00 am ET to 7:00 pm, Monday through Friday.</p>
WEBSITE	http://www.ssa.gov

SECTION 6

MEDICAID (A JOINT FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAM THAT HELPS WITH MEDICAL COSTS FOR SOME PEOPLE WITH LIMITED INCOME AND RESOURCES)

Medicaid is a joint Federal and state government program that helps with medical costs for certain people with limited incomes and resources. Some people with Medicare are also eligible for Medicaid.

In addition, there are programs offered through Medicaid that help people with Medicare pay their Medicare costs, such as their Medicare premiums. These programs help people with limited income and resources save money each year:

- **Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB):** Helps pay Medicare Part A and Part B premiums, and other cost sharing (like deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments).
- **Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) and Qualifying Individual (QI):** Helps pay Part B premiums.
- **Qualified Disabled & Working Individuals (QDWI):** Helps pay Part A premiums.

To find out more about Medicaid and its programs, contact the Medicaid office in your state.

STATE	ADDRESS	TOLL-FREE NUMBER	LOCAL NUMBER
Alabama	501 Dexter Ave., PO Box 5624 Montgomery, AL 36103-5624	1-800-362-1504	1-334-242-5000
Alaska	350 Main St., Room 229 PO Box 110601 Juneau, AK 99811-0601	1-800-780-9972	1-907-465-3030
Arizona	801 E. Jefferson Phoenix, AZ 85034	1-800-523-0231	1-602-417-4000 1-602-417-4191 (TTY)
Arkansas	PO Box 1437, Slot 1100, Donaghey Plaza South Little Rock, AR 72203	1-800-482-5431	1-501-682-8292 1-501-682-6789 (TTY)
California	PO Box 997413 Sacramento, CA 95899-7413		1-916-440-7400
Colorado	1570 Grant St. Denver, CO 80203-1818	1-800-221-3943	1-303-866-2993 1-303-866-3883 (TTY)
Connecticut	25 Sigourney St. Hartford, CT 06106-5033	1-800-842-1508	1-860-424-4908
Delaware	1901 N. DuPont Highway, PO Box 906, Lewis Bldg. New Castle, DE 19720	1-800-372-2022	1-302-255-9040
District of Columbia	825 North Capitol St., NE, 5th Floor Washington, DC 20002	1-888-557-1116	1-202-442-5999
Florida	PO Box 13000 Tallahassee, FL 32317-3000	1-866-762-2237	1-850-488-3560
Georgia	2 Peachtree St., NW Atlanta, GA 30303	1-866-322-4260	1-770-570-3300
Hawaii	PO Box 339 Honolulu, HI 96809		1-808-587-3521 1-808-692-7182 (TTY)
Idaho	450 West State St. Boise, ID 83720-0036	1-800-685-3757	1-208-334-5500 1-208-332-7205 (TTY)
Illinois	201 South Grand Ave., East Springfield, IL 62763	1-866-468-7543	1-217-782-1200
Indiana	402 W. Washington St. PO Box 7083 Indianapolis, IN 46207-7083	1-800-889-9949	1-317-233-4455
Iowa	Hoover State Office Bldg, 5th Fl Des Moines, IA 50319-0114	1-800-338-8366	1-515-327-5121
Kansas	915 SW Harrison St. Topeka, KS 66612	1-800-766-9012	1-785-274-4200 1-785-296-1491 (TTY)

STATE	ADDRESS	TOLL-FREE NUMBER	LOCAL NUMBER
Kentucky	PO Box 2110 Frankfort, KY 40602-2110	1-800-635-2570	1-502-564-4321
Louisiana	PO Box 91278 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9278	1-888-342-6207	1-225-342-9500
Maine	442 Civic Center Dr. 11 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0011	1-800-977-6740	1-207-624-7539 1-207-287-1828 (TTY)
Maryland	PO Box 17259 Baltimore, MD 21203-7259	1-800-492-5231	1-410-767-5800
Massachusetts	600 Washington St. Boston, MA 02111	1-800-325-5231	1-617-628-4141
Michigan	Sixth Floor, Lewis Cass Bldg, 320 South Walnut St. Lansing, MI 48913	1-800-642-3195	1-517-373-3740 1-517-373-3573 (TTY)
Minnesota	444 Lafayette Rd. North St. Paul, MN 55155	1-800-657-3739	1-651-431-2670 1-651-296-5705 (TTY)
Mississippi	239 North Lamar St., Suite 801 Robert E. Lee Bldg. Jackson, MS 39201-1399	1-800-421-2408	1-601-359-6050 1-800-855-1000 (TTY)
Missouri	221 West High St. PO Box 1527 Jefferson City, MO 65102-1527	1-800-392-2161	1-573-751-4815
Montana	1400 Broadway Cogswell Bldg, PO Box 8005 Helena, MT 59604-8005	1-800-362-8312	1-406-444-4540
Nebraska	PO Box 95044 Lincoln, NE 68509-5044	1-800-430-3244	1-402-471-3121 1-402-471-9570 (TTY)
Nevada	1100 E William St., Suite 101 Carson City, NV 89701	1-800-992-0900	1-775-684-7200
New Hampshire	129 Pleasant St. Concord, NH 03301-3857	1-800-852-3345	1-603-271-4238
New Jersey	Quakerbridge Plaza, Building 7, PO Box 712 Trenton, NJ 08625-0712	1-800-356-1561	1-609-588-2600
New Mexico	PO Box 2348 Santa Fe, NM 87504-2348	1-888-997-2583	1-505-827-3100 1-505-827-3184 (TTY)
New York	Office of Medicaid Management Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Corning Tower Building Albany, NY 12237	1-800-541-2831	1-518-486-9057

STATE	ADDRESS	TOLL-FREE NUMBER	LOCAL NUMBER
North Carolina	Division of Medical Assistance 2501 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-2501	1-800-662-7030	1-919-855-4100 1-877-733-4851 (TTY)
North Dakota	600 E. Boulevard Ave. Bismarck, ND 58505-0250	1-800-755-2604	1-701-328-2321 1-701-328-8950 (TTY)
Ohio	30 East Broad St., 31st Floor Columbus, OH 43215-3414	1-800-324-8680	1-614-728-3288
Oklahoma	4545 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Suite 124 Oklahoma City, OK 73105	1-800-522-0310	1-405-522-7171 1-405-522-7300 1-405-522-7179 (TTY)
Oregon	500 Summer St., NE, 3rd Floor Salem, OR 94310-1014	1-800-527-5772	1-503-945-5772 1-503-945-5895 (TTY)
Pennsylvania	Health and Welfare Bldg, Rm 515 PO Box 2675 Harrisburg, PA 17105-2675	1-800-692-7462	1-717-787-1870 1-717-705-7103 (TTY)
Puerto Rico	GPO Box 70184 San Juan, PR 00936	1-877-725-4300	1-787-725-4300
Rhode Island	Louis Pasteur Building 600 New London Ave. Cranston, RI 02921	1-800-984-8989	1-401-462-5300 1-401-462-3363 (TTY)
South Carolina	PO BOX 8206 Columbia, SC 29202-8206	1-888-549-0820	1-803-898-2500
South Dakota	700 Governors Drive Richard F Kneip Bldg. Pierre, SD 57501	1-800-452-7691	1-605-773-3495
Tennessee	310 Great Circle Rd. Nashville, TN 37243	1-866-311-4287	
Texas	4900 N. Lamar Blvd, 4th Floor Austin, TX 78701	1-877-541-7905	1-512-424-6500 1-512-407-3250 (TTY)
US Virgin Islands	GPO Box 70184 San Juan, VI 00936	1-877-725-4300	1-787-725-4300
Utah	288 North 1460 West PO Box 143101 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-3101	1-800-662-9651	1-801-538-6155
Vermont	103 South Main St. Waterbury, VT 05676-1201	1-800-250-8427	1-802-879-5900 1-802-241-1282 (TTY)
Virginia	600 East Broad St., Suite 1300 Richmond, VA 23219	1-800-552-8627	1-804-786-6273
Washington	PO Box 45505 Olympia, WA 98504-5505	1-800-562-3022	1-800-562-6188

STATE	ADDRESS	TOLL-FREE NUMBER	LOCAL NUMBER
West Virginia	350 Capital St., Room 251 Charleston, WV 25301-3709		1-304-558-1700
Wisconsin	1 West Wilson St., PO Box 309 Madison, WI 53701-0309	1-800-362-3002	1-608-221-5720 1-608-267-7371 (TTY)
Wyoming	147 Hathaway Building Cheyenne, WY 82002		1-307-777-7531 1-307-777-5648 (TTY)

SECTION 7

INFORMATION ABOUT PROGRAMS TO HELP PEOPLE PAY FOR THEIR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Medicare's "Extra Help" Program

Medicare provides "Extra Help" to pay prescription drug costs for people who have limited income and resources. Resources include your savings and stocks, but not your home or car. If you qualify, you get help paying for any Medicare drug plan's monthly premium and prescription copayments and coinsurance. This Extra Help also counts toward your out-of-pocket costs.

People with limited income and resources may qualify for Extra Help. Some people automatically qualify for Extra Help and don't need to apply. Medicare mails a letter to people who automatically qualify for Extra Help.

You may be able to get Extra Help to pay for your prescription drug premiums and costs. To see if you qualify for getting Extra Help, call:

- 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week;
- The Social Security Office at 1-800-772-1213, between 7 am to 7 pm, Monday through Friday. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778; or
- Your State Medicaid Office. (See Section 6 of this chapter for contact information)

If you believe you have qualified for Extra Help and you believe that you are paying an incorrect cost-sharing amount when you get your prescription at a pharmacy, call the HOP Administration Unit. Our plan has established a process that allows you to either request assistance in obtaining evidence of your proper copayment level, or, if you already have the evidence, to provide this evidence to us.

When we receive the evidence showing your copayment level, we will update our system so that you can pay the correct copayment when you get your next prescription at the pharmacy. If you overpay your copayment, we will reimburse you. Either we will forward a check to you in the amount of your overpayment or we will offset future copayments. If the pharmacy hasn't collected a copayment from you and is carrying your copayment as a debt owed by you, we may make the payment directly to the pharmacy. If a state paid on your behalf, we may make payment directly to the state. Please contact the HOP Administration Unit if you have questions.

Medicare Coverage Gap Discount Program

The Medicare Coverage Gap Discount Program provides manufacturer discounts on brand name drugs to Part D enrollees who have reached the coverage gap and are not already receiving "Extra Help." A 50% discount on the negotiated price (excluding the dispensing fee and vaccine administration fee, if any) is available for those brand name drugs from manufacturers that have agreed to pay the discount.

If you reach the coverage gap, we will automatically apply the discount when your pharmacy bills you for your prescription and your Explanation of Benefits (EOB) will show any discount provided. Both the amount you pay and the amount discounted by the manufacturer count toward your out-of-pocket costs as if you had paid them and moves you through the coverage gap.

You also receive some coverage for generic drugs. The coverage for generic drugs works differently than the 50% discount for brand name drugs. For generic drugs, the amount paid by the plan does not count toward your out-of-pocket costs. Only the amount you pay counts and moves you through the coverage gap. Also, the dispensing fee is included as part of the cost of the drug.

If you have any questions about the availability of discounts for the drugs you are taking or about the Medicare Coverage Gap Discount Program in general, please contact the HOP Administration Unit (phone numbers are on the front cover).

What if you have coverage from a State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program (SPAP)?

If you are enrolled in a State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program (SPAP), or any other program that provides coverage for Part D drugs (other than Extra Help), you still get the 50% discount on covered brand name drugs. The 50% discount is applied to the price of the drug before any SPAP or other coverage.

What if you get Extra Help from Medicare to help pay your prescription drug costs? Can you get the discounts?

No. If you get Extra Help, you already get coverage for your prescription drug costs during the coverage gap.

What if you don't get a discount, and you think you should have?

If you think that you have reached the coverage gap and did not get a discount when you paid for your brand name drug, you should review your next *Explanation of Benefits* (EOB) notice. If the discount doesn't appear on your *Explanation of Benefits*, you should contact us to make sure that your prescription records are correct and up-to-date. If we don't agree that you are owed a discount, you can appeal. You can get help filing an appeal from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) (telephone numbers are in Section 3 of this Chapter) or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs

Many states have State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs that help some people pay for prescription drugs based on financial need, age, or medical condition. Each state has different rules to provide drug coverage to its members.

These programs provide limited income and medically needy seniors and individuals with disabilities financial help for prescription drugs.

STATE	ADDRESS	TOLL-FREE NUMBER	LOCAL NUMBER
Alaska		1-800-211-7470	
Connecticut	25 Sigourney St. Hartford, CT 06106	1-800-423-5026	
Delaware		1-302-255-9577	
Illinois		1-217-782-2570	
Indiana		1-317-234-1341	1-207-287-6533
Maine	11 State House Station 442 Civic Center Drive Augusta, ME 04333	1-207-287-4018	
Maryland		1-410-576-2055	
Massachusetts	1 Ashburton Place, 5th Floor Boston, MA 02108		1-573-522-3073
Missouri		1-573-522-3072	
Nevada		1-775-687-8713	
New Jersey		1-609-588-7972	
New York		1-518-452-6828	
North Carolina		1-919-733-2040	
Pennsylvania		1-717-787-7313	
Rhode Island		1-401-462-0509	
Texas		1-515-458-7150 ext. 6879	
Vermont		1-802-879-5911	
Wyoming		1-800-438-5785	

SECTION 8

HOW TO CONTACT THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

The Railroad Retirement Board is an independent Federal agency that administers comprehensive benefit programs for the nation's railroad workers and their families. If you have questions regarding your benefits from the Railroad Retirement Board, contact the agency.

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD	
CALL	1-877-772-5772 (Calls to this number are free.) Available 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday If you have a touch-tone telephone, recorded information and automated services are available 24 hours a day, including weekends and holidays.
TTY	1-312-751-4701 (Calls to this number are <i>not</i> free.) This number requires special telephone equipment and is only for people who have difficulties with hearing or speaking.
WEBSITE	http://www.rrb.gov .

SECTION 9

DO YOU HAVE “GROUP INSURANCE” OR OTHER HEALTH INSURANCE FROM AN EMPLOYER?

If you (or your spouse) get benefits from your (or your spouse's) employer or retiree group, call the employer/union benefits administrator or Member Services if you have any questions. You can ask about your (or your spouse's) employer or retiree health or drug benefits, premiums, or enrollment period.

If you have other prescription drug coverage through your (or your spouse's) employer or retiree group, please contact **that group's benefits**

administrator. The benefits administrator can help you determine how your current prescription drug coverage will work with our plan.

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Did you know there are programs to help people pay for their drugs?

There are programs to help people with limited resources pay for their drugs. These include “Extra Help” and State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs. For more information, see Chapter 2, Section 7.

Are you currently getting help to pay for your drugs?

If you are in a program that helps pay for your drugs, **some information in this Evidence of Coverage may not apply to you.** We send you a separate insert, called the “Evidence of Coverage Rider for People Who Get Extra Help Paying for Prescription Drugs” (LIS Rider) that tells you about your drug coverage. If you don’t have this insert, please call the HOP Administration Unit and ask for the “Evidence of Coverage Rider for People Who Get Extra Help Paying for Prescription Drugs” (LIS Rider).. Phone numbers for the HOP Administration Unit are on the front cover.

SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

Section 1.1 This chapter describes your coverage for Part D drugs

This chapter explains rules for using your coverage for Part D drugs. The next chapter tells what you pay for Part D drugs (Chapter 4, *What you pay for your Part D prescription drugs*).

In addition to your coverage for Part D drugs through our plan, Original Medicare (Medicare Part A and Part B) also covers some drugs:

- Medicare Part A covers drugs you are given during Medicare-covered stays in the hospital or in a skilled nursing facility.
- Medicare Part B also provides benefits for some drugs. Part B drugs include certain chemotherapy drugs, certain drug injections you are given during an office visit, and drugs you are given at a dialysis facility.

The two examples of drugs described above are covered by Original Medicare. (To find out more about this coverage, see your *Medicare & You Handbook*.) Your Part D prescription drugs are covered under our plan.

This chapter explains rules for using your coverage for Part D drugs under our plan.

The next chapter tells what you pay for Part D drugs (Chapter 4, *What you pay for your Part D prescription drugs*).

Section 1.2 Basic rules for the plan's Part D drug coverage

The plan will generally cover your drugs as long as you follow these basic rules:

- You must have a provider (a doctor or other prescriber) write your prescription.
- You must use a network pharmacy to fill your prescription. (See Section 2, *Fill your prescriptions at a network pharmacy or through the plan's mail-order service*.)
- Your drug must be on the plan's *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)*. (We call it the “Drug List” for short.) (See Section 3, *Your drugs need to be on the plan's drug list*).
- Your drug must be used for a medically accepted indication. A “medically accepted indication” is a use of the drug that is either approved by the Food and Drug Administration or supported by certain reference books. (See Section 3 for more information about a medically accepted indication.)

SECTION 2

FILL YOUR PRESCRIPTION AT A NETWORK PHARMACY OR THROUGH THE PLAN'S MAIL-ORDER SERVICE

Section 2.1 To have your prescription covered, use a network pharmacy

In most cases, your prescriptions are covered *only* if they are filled at the plan's network pharmacies. (See Section 2.5 for information about when we would cover prescriptions filled at out-of-network pharmacies.)

A network pharmacy is a pharmacy that has a contract with the plan to provide your covered prescription drugs. The term "covered drugs" means all of the Part D prescription drugs that are covered by the plan.

Section 2.2 Finding network pharmacies

How do you find a network pharmacy in your area?

You can log onto www.HOPbenefits.com and click on "Find a Pharmacy" or the *Pharmacy Directory* for your state, or you can call Prescription Solutions (phone numbers are on the cover). Choose whatever is easiest for you.

You may go to any of our network pharmacies. If you switch from one network pharmacy to another, and you need a refill of a drug you have been taking, you can ask to either have a new prescription written by a doctor or to have your prescription transferred to your new network pharmacy.

What if the pharmacy you have been using leaves the network?

If the pharmacy you have been using leaves the plan's network, you will have to find a new pharmacy that is in the network. To find another network pharmacy in your area, you can log onto www.HOPbenefits.com and click on "Find a Pharmacy" or the *Pharmacy Directory* for your state, or you can call Prescription Solutions (phone numbers are on the cover).

What if you need a specialized pharmacy?

Sometimes prescriptions must be filled at a specialized pharmacy. Specialized pharmacies include:

- Pharmacies that supply drugs for home infusion therapy. The plan will cover home infusion therapy if:
 - your prescription drug is on our plan's formulary, or a formulary exception has been granted for your prescription drug
 - you have followed all required coverage rules, and our plan has approved your prescription for home infusion therapy
 - your prescription is written by a doctor, and
 - you get your infused drug(s) from a plan network pharmacy.
- Pharmacies that supply drugs for residents of a long-term-care facility. Usually, a long-term care facility (such as a nursing home) has its own pharmacy. Residents may get prescription drugs through the facility's pharmacy as long as it is part of our network. If your long-term care pharmacy is not in our network, please contact Prescription Solutions.
- Pharmacies that serve the Indian Health Service / Tribal / Urban Indian Health Program (not available in Puerto Rico). Except in emergencies, only Native Americans or Alaska Natives have access to these pharmacies in our network.

- Pharmacies that dispense certain drugs that are restricted by the FDA to certain locations or that require special handling, provider coordination, or education on their use. (Note: This scenario should happen rarely.)

To locate a specialized pharmacy, look in your *Pharmacy Directory* or call Prescription Solutions.

Section 2.3 Using the plan's mail-order services

You can use our network mail-order pharmacy to fill prescriptions for what we call “maintenance” drugs. These are drugs that you take on a regular basis, for a chronic or long-term medical condition.

When you order prescription drugs through our network mail-order pharmacy, you must order at least a 31-day, and no more than a 90-day, supply of the drug. The first time that you fill a prescription through our network mail-order pharmacy, you are limited to a **first-fill starter quantity**, which cannot exceed a 33-day supply. If you are taking the medication for the first time, this initial supply should be sufficient for you and your doctor to determine if it is having the anticipated results without unintended detrimental side effects. Because we have no record of the medications you are already taking when you first join HOP, this limit also applies to your first fill for a medication under HOP—even if you're already taking it. After you receive your first fill starter quantity (up to a 33-day supply), your doctor can prescribe a larger quantity, if appropriate, the next time you need a refill. Finally, if you have a lapse of more than six months before requesting a refill of a maintenance medication, you will be required to meet the first fill starter quantity again to make sure you can take the medication safely and effectively.

Generally, it takes the mail-order pharmacy up to 14 days to process your order and ship it to you. However, sometimes your mail order may be delayed. If your mail order is delayed, you can receive up to a 30-day supply at retail. Have your

doctor contact your retail pharmacy to call in a temporary supply. The pharmacist will contact Prescription Solutions for approval to fill the prescription.

If you need an immediate supply of a maintenance medication, ask your physician to write two prescriptions, one for a short-term supply to be filled at a local retail pharmacy and another for a long-term supply to be filled through the mail-order pharmacy.

You are not required to use the mail-order pharmacy to obtain an extended supply of maintenance medications. Instead, you have the option of using certain network retail pharmacies in our network to obtain a supply of maintenance medications. Some of these retail pharmacies agree to accept the mail-order cost-sharing amount for an extended supply of maintenance medications, which may result in no out-of-pocket payment difference to you. In your *Pharmacy Directory* (available online at www.HOPbenefits.com), a retail pharmacy is denoted with “90” by its name if it offers this pharmacy. You can also call Prescription Solutions for more information.

To get order forms and information about filling your prescriptions by mail, call Prescription Solutions. Please note that you must use our network mail-order service. Prescription drugs that you get through any other mail-order services are not covered.

Section 2.4 How can you get a long-term supply of drugs?

Once you have satisfied the starter quantity requirements, the plan offers two ways to get a long-term supply of maintenance drugs on our plan's Drug List. (Maintenance drugs are drugs that you take on a regular basis, for a chronic or long-term medical condition.)

1. **Some retail pharmacies** in our network allow you to get a long-term supply of maintenance

drugs. Some of these retail pharmacies agree to accept the mail-order cost-sharing amount for a long-term supply of mail-order drugs. Other retail pharmacies may not agree to accept the mail-order cost-sharing amounts for an extended supply of mail-order drugs. In this case you will be responsible for the difference in price. Your *Pharmacy Directory* tells you which pharmacies in our network can give you a long-term supply of mail-order drugs. You can also call Prescription Solutions for more information.

2. You can use the plan's network **mail-order services**. With the mail-order service, you can order up to a 90-day supply. See Section 2.3 for more information about using our mail-order services.

Section 2.5 When can you use a pharmacy that is not in the plan's network?

Your prescription may be covered in certain situations

Generally, we cover drugs filled at an out-of-network pharmacy *only* when you are not able to use a network pharmacy. Below are some circumstances when we would cover prescriptions filled at an out-of-network pharmacy. **Before you fill your prescription in these situations, call Prescription Solutions to see if there is a network pharmacy in your area where you can fill your prescription.**

If you do go to an out-of-network pharmacy for the reasons listed below, you may have to pay the full cost (rather than paying just your copay or coinsurance) when you fill your prescription. You may ask us to reimburse you for our share of the cost by submitting a paper claim. You should submit a claim to us if you fill a prescription at an out-of-network pharmacy as any amount you pay for a covered Part D drug will help you qualify for catastrophic coverage. To learn how to submit

a paper claim, please refer "How do you ask for reimbursement from the plan?" later in this section.

Note: Even if we do pay for the drugs you get at an out-of-network pharmacy, you may still pay more than you would have if you had gone to an in-network pharmacy.

If you are traveling. If you travel and take a prescription drug on a regular basis, be sure to check your supply of the drug before you leave. When possible, take along all the medication you will need. You may be able to order your prescription drugs ahead of time through our mail-order pharmacy. Network pharmacies are available throughout the country. If you need to transfer your prescription, call the pharmacy you wish to transfer the prescription from and ask them to transfer the prescription. You will need to provide the pharmacy with the new pharmacy name, phone number, and Rx number. You can also call Prescription Solutions to find out if there is a network pharmacy in the area where you are traveling. If there are no network pharmacies in that area, Prescription Solutions may be able to make arrangements for you to get your prescriptions from an out-of-network pharmacy. We cannot pay for any prescriptions that are filled by pharmacies outside the United States and its territories, even for a medical emergency.

If you have a medical emergency or need urgent care. We will cover prescriptions that are filled at an out-of-network pharmacy in the U.S. if the prescriptions are related to care for a medical emergency or urgent care. In this situation, you will have to pay the full cost (rather than paying just your copay or coinsurance) when you fill your prescription. You can ask us to reimburse you for our share of the cost by submitting a paper claim form. If you go to an out-of-network pharmacy, you may be responsible for paying the difference between what we would pay for a prescription filled at an in-network pharmacy and what the out-of-network pharmacy charged for your prescription.

Other times you can use an out-of-network pharmacy. We will cover your prescriptions at an out-of-network pharmacy if at least one of the following applies:

- You are trying to fill a prescription with a drug that is not regularly stocked at an accessible network retail or mail-order pharmacy (including high-cost and Specialty Drugs).
- You are getting a vaccine that is medically necessary but not covered by Medicare Part B or some covered drugs that are administered in your doctor's office.

Before you fill your prescription in either of these situations, call Prescription Solutions to see if there is a network pharmacy in your area where you can fill your prescription. If you go to an out-of-network pharmacy for a reason listed above, you will have to pay the full cost (rather than paying just your copay or co-insurance) when you fill your prescription. You can ask us to reimburse you for our share of the cost by submitting a claim form. If you go to an out-of-network pharmacy, you may be responsible for paying the difference between what we would pay for a prescription filled at an in-network pharmacy and what the out-of-network pharmacy charged for your prescription.

How do you ask for reimbursement from the plan?

If you must use an out-of-network pharmacy, you will generally have to pay the full cost (rather than your normal share of the cost) when you fill your prescription. You can ask us to reimburse you for our share of the cost. (Chapter 5, Section 2.1 explains how to ask the plan to pay you back.)

SECTION 3

YOUR DRUGS NEED TO BE ON THE PLAN'S "DRUG LIST"

Section 3.1 The "Drug List" tells which Part D drugs are covered

The plan has a "*List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)*." In this *Evidence of Coverage*, we call it the "**Drug List**" for short.

The drugs on this list are selected by the plan with the help of a team of doctors and pharmacists. The list must meet requirements set by Medicare. Medicare has approved the plan's Drug List.

The Drug List for the Basic Medicare Rx Option is different from the Drug List for the Enhanced Medicare Rx Option. Drugs on the Basic Medicare Rx Option Drug List are only those covered under Medicare Part D. The Enhanced Medicare Rx Option Drug List includes more drugs than Medicare requires. (Earlier in this chapter, Section 1.1 explains about Part D drugs.)

We will generally cover a drug on the plan's Drug List as long as you follow the other coverage rules explained in this chapter and use of the drug is a medically accepted indication. A "medically accepted indication" is a use of the drug that is *either*:

- approved by the Food and Drug Administration. (That is, the Food and Drug Administration has approved the drug for the diagnosis or condition for which it is being prescribed.)
- –or– supported by certain reference books. (These reference books are the American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information, the DRUGDEX Information System, and the USPDI or its successor.)

The Drug List includes both brand-name and generic drugs

A generic drug is a prescription drug that has the same active ingredients as the brand-name drug. Generally, it works just as well as the brand-name drug and usually costs less. There are generic drug substitutes available for many brand-name drugs.

What is *not* on the Drug list?

The plan does not cover all prescription drugs.

- In some cases, the law does not allow any Medicare plan to cover certain types of drugs (for more about this, see Section 8.1 in this chapter).
- In other cases, we have decided not to include a particular drug on our Drug List.

Section 3.2 There are four “cost-sharing tiers” for drugs on the Drug List

Every drug on the plan's Drug List is in one of four cost-sharing tiers. In general, the higher the cost-sharing tier, the higher your cost for the drug:

- Tier 1 includes generic drugs
- Tier 2 includes preferred brand-name drugs
- Tier 3 includes non-preferred brand-name drugs
- Tier 4 includes specialty drugs

To find out which cost-sharing tier your drug is in, look it up in the plan's Drug List.

The amount you pay for drugs in each cost-sharing tier is shown in Chapter 4 (*What you pay for your Part D prescription drugs*).

Section 3.3 How can you find out if a specific drug is on the Drug List?

You have three ways to find out:

1. Check the most recent Drug List we sent you in the mail.
2. Visit the plan's website (www.HOPbenefits.com). The Drug List on the website is always the most current. You can also click on “Find a Drug.”
3. Call Prescription Solutions to find out if a particular drug is on the plan's Drug List or to ask for a copy of the list. Phone numbers for Prescription Solutions are on the front cover.

SECTION 4 THERE ARE RESTRICTIONS ON COVERAGE FOR SOME DRUGS

Section 4.1 Why do some drugs have restrictions?

For certain prescription drugs, special rules restrict how and when the plan covers them. A team of doctors and pharmacists developed these rules to help our members use drugs in the most effective ways. These special rules also help control overall drug costs, which keeps your drug coverage more affordable.

In general, our rules encourage you to get a drug that works for your medical condition and is safe. Whenever a safe, lower-cost drug will work medically just as well as a higher-cost drug, the plan's rules are designed to encourage you and your doctor or other prescriber to use that lower-cost option. We also need to comply with Medicare's rules and regulations for drug coverage and cost sharing.

If there is a restriction for your drug, it usually means that you or your provider will have to take extra steps in order for us to cover the drug. If you want us to waive the restriction for you, you will need to use the formal appeals process and ask us to make an exception. We may or may not agree to waive the restriction for you. (See Chapter 9, Section 5.2 for information about asking for exceptions.)

Section 4.2 What kinds of restrictions?

Our plan uses different types of restrictions to help our members use drugs in the most effective ways. The sections below tell you more about the types of restrictions we use for certain drugs.

Using generic drugs whenever you can

Generally, a “generic” drug works the same as a brand-name drug, and usually costs less.

When a generic version of a brand-name drug is available, our network pharmacies may recommend and/or provide you the generic version. However, if your doctor has told us the medical reason that the generic drug will not work for you, then we will cover the brand-name drug. (Your share of the cost will be greater for the brand-name drug than for the generic drug.)

Getting plan approval in advance (prior authorization)

For certain drugs, you or your doctor need to get approval from the plan before we will agree to cover the drug for you. This is called “**prior authorization.**” Sometimes plan approval is required so we can be sure that your drug is covered by Medicare rules. Sometimes the requirement for getting approval in advance helps guide appropriate use of certain drugs. If you do not get this approval, your drug might not be covered by the plan.

First fill starter quantity

The first time that you fill a prescription through our network mail-order pharmacy, you are limited to a 33-day supply. If you are taking the medication for the first time, this initial supply should be sufficient for you and your doctor to determine if it is having the anticipated results without unintended detrimental side effects.

Because we have no record of the medications you are already taking when you first join HOP, this limit also applies to your first fill for a medication under HOP—even if you’re already taking it. After you receive your first fill starter quantity (up to a 33-day supply), your doctor can prescribe a larger quantity, if appropriate, the next time you need a refill.

In addition, if you have a lapse of more than six months before requesting a refill of a maintenance medication, you will be required to meet the first fill starter quantity again to make sure you can take the medication safely and effectively.

Trying a different drug first (step therapy)

This requirement encourages you to try safer or more effective drugs before the plan covers another drug. For example, if Drug A and Drug B treat the same medical condition, the plan may require you to try Drug A first. If Drug A does not work for you, the plan will then cover Drug B. This requirement to try a different drug first is called “**Step Therapy.**”

Quantity limits

For certain drugs, we limit the amount of the drug that you can have. For example, the plan might limit how many refills you can get, or how much of a drug you can get each time you fill your prescription. For example, if it is normally considered safe to take only one pill per day for a certain drug, we may limit coverage for your prescription to no more than one pill per day.

Section 4.3 Do any of these restrictions apply to your drugs?

The plan's Drug List includes information about the restrictions described above. To find out if any of these restrictions apply to a drug you take or want to take, check the Drug List. For the most up-to-date information, call Prescription Solutions (phone numbers are on the front cover) or check our website (www.HOPbenefits.com).

If there is a restriction for your drug, it usually means that you or your provider will have to take extra steps in order for us to cover the drug. If there is a restriction on the drug you want to take, you should contact Prescription Solutions to learn what you or your provider would need to do to get coverage for the drug. If you want us to waive the restriction for you, you will need to use the formal appeals process and ask us to make an exception. We may or may not agree to waive the restriction for you. (See Chapter 9, Section 5.2 for information about asking for exceptions.)

SECTION 5

WHAT IF ONE OF YOUR DRUGS IS NOT COVERED IN THE WAY YOU'D LIKE IT TO BE COVERED?

Section 5.1 There are things you can do if your drug is not covered in the way you'd like it to be covered

Suppose there is a prescription drug you are currently taking, or one that you and your doctor think you should be taking. We hope that your drug coverage will work well for you, but it's possible that you might have a problem. For example:

- **What if the drug you want to take is not covered by the plan?** For example, the drug might not be covered at all. Or maybe a generic version of the drug is covered but the brand-name version you want to take is not covered.
- **What if the drug is covered, but there are extra rules or restrictions on coverage for that drug?** As explained in Section 4, some of the drugs covered by the plan have extra rules to restrict their use. For example, you might be required to try a different drug first, to see if it will work, before the drug you want to take will be covered for you. Or there might be limits on what amount of the drug (number of pills, etc.) is covered during a particular time period. In some cases, you may want us to waive the restriction for you. For example, you might want us to cover a certain drug for you without having to try other drugs first. Or you may want us to cover more of a drug (number of pills, etc.) than we normally will cover.
- **What if the drug is covered, but it is in a cost-sharing tier that makes your cost sharing more expensive than you think it should be?** The plan puts each covered drug into one of four different cost-sharing tiers. How much you pay for your prescription depends in part on which cost-sharing tier your drug is in.

There are things you can do if your drug is not covered in the way that you'd like it to be covered. Your options depend on what type of problem you have:

- If your drug is not on the Drug List or if your drug is restricted, go to Section 5.2 to learn what you can do.
- If your drug is in a cost-sharing tier that makes your cost more expensive than you think it should be, go to Section 5.3 to learn what you can do.

Section 5.2 What can you do if your drug is not on the Drug List or if the drug is restricted in some way?

If your drug is not on the Drug List or is restricted, here are things you can do:

- You may be able to get a temporary supply of the drug (only members in certain situations can get a temporary supply). This will give you and your provider time to change to another drug or to file a request to have the drug covered.
- You can change to another drug.
- You can request an exception and ask the plan to cover the drug or remove restrictions from the drug covered.

You may be able to get a temporary supply

Under certain circumstances, the plan can offer a temporary supply of a drug to you when your drug is not on the Drug List or when it is restricted in some way. Doing this gives you time to talk with your provider about the change in coverage and figure out what to do.

To be eligible for a temporary supply, you must meet the two requirements below:

1. The change to your drug coverage must be one of the following types of changes:

- The drug you have been taking is **no longer on the plan's Drug List**, or
- The drug you have been taking is **now restricted in some way** (Section 4 in this chapter tells about restrictions).

2. You must be in one of the situations described below:

- **For those members who were in the plan last year and aren't in a long-term care facility:**
We will cover a temporary supply of your drug **one time only during the first 90 days**

of the calendar year. This temporary supply will be for a maximum of a 30-day supply), or less if your prescription is written for fewer days. The prescription must be filled at a network pharmacy.

- **For those members who are new to the plan and aren't in a long-term care facility:**
We will cover a temporary supply of your drug **one time only during the first 90 days of your membership** in the plan. This temporary supply will be for a maximum of a 30-day supply, or less if your prescription is written for fewer days. The prescription must be filled at a network pharmacy.
- **For those who are new members and residents in a long-term care facility:**
We will cover a temporary supply of your drug **during the first 90 days of your membership** in the plan. The first supply will be for a maximum of a 31-day supply, or less if your prescription is written for fewer days. If needed, we will cover up to three 31-day supplies during your first 90 days in the plan.
- **For those who have been members of the plan for more than 90 days and are residents of a long-term care facility and need a supply right away:**
We will cover one 31-day supply, or less if your prescription is written for fewer days. This is in addition to the above long-term care transition supply.

Please note that our transition policy applies only to those drugs that are included on the Basic Medicare Rx Option formulary and bought at a network pharmacy. The transition policy cannot be used to buy a drug that is only on the Enhanced Medicare Rx Option or a drug bought out of network, unless you qualify for out-of-network access. See Section 10 for information about non-Part D drugs.

To ask for a temporary supply, call Prescription Solutions (phone numbers are on the front cover).

During the time when you are getting a temporary supply of a drug, you should talk with your provider to decide what to do when your temporary supply runs out. You can either switch to a different drug covered by the plan or ask the plan to make an exception for you and cover your current drug. The sections below tell you more about these options.

You can change to another drug

Start by talking with your provider. Perhaps there is a different drug covered by the plan that might work just as well for you. You can call Prescription Solutions to ask for a list of covered drugs that treat the same medical condition. This list can help your provider to find a covered drug that might work for you.

You can ask for an exception

You and your provider can ask the plan to make an exception for you and cover the drug in the way you would like it to be covered. If your provider says that you have medical reasons that justify asking us for an exception, your provider can help you request an exception to the rule. For example, you can ask the plan to cover a drug even though it is not on the plan's Drug List. Or you can ask the plan to make an exception and cover the drug without restrictions.

If you are a current member and a drug you are taking will be removed from the formulary or restricted in some way for next year, we will allow you to request a formulary exception in advance for next year. We will tell you about any change in the coverage for your drug for the following year. You can then ask us to make an exception and cover the drug in the way you would like it to be covered for the following year. We will give you an answer to your request for an exception before the change takes effect.

If you and your provider want to ask for an exception, Chapter 7, Section 5.4 tells what to do. It explains the procedures and deadlines that have been set by Medicare to make sure your request is handled promptly and fairly.

Section 5.3 What can you do if your drug is in a cost-sharing tier you think is too high?

If your drug is in a cost-sharing tier you think is too high, here are things you can do:

You can change to another drug

If your drug is in a cost-sharing tier you think is too high, start by talking with your provider. Perhaps there is a different drug in a lower cost-sharing tier that might work just as well for you. You can call Prescription Solutions to ask for a list of covered drugs that treat the same medical condition. This list can help your provider find a covered drug that might work for you.

You can ask for an exception

For a drug in Tier 2 (preferred brand-name) or 3 (non-preferred brand-name), you and your provider can ask the plan to make an exception in the cost-sharing tier for the drug so that you pay less for it. If your provider says that you have medical reasons that justify asking us for an exception, your provider can help you request an exception to the rule.

If you and your provider want to ask for an exception, Chapter 7, Section 5.4 tells what to do. It explains the procedures and deadlines that have been set by Medicare to make sure your request is handled promptly and fairly.

Drugs in some of our cost-sharing tiers are not eligible for this type of exception. We do not lower the cost-sharing amount for drugs in Tier 4 (Specialty Drugs).

SECTION 6

WHAT IF YOUR COVERAGE CHANGES FOR ONE OF YOUR DRUGS?

Section 6.1 The Drug List can change during the year

Most of the changes in drug coverage happen at the beginning of each year (January 1). However, during the year, the plan might make many kinds of changes to the Drug List. For example, the plan might:

- **Add or remove drugs from the Drug List.**
New drugs become available, including new generic drugs. Perhaps the government has given approval to a new use for an existing drug. Sometimes, a drug gets recalled and we decide not to cover it. Or we might remove a drug from the list because it has been found to be ineffective.
- **Move a drug to a higher or lower cost-sharing tier.**
- **Add or remove a restriction on coverage for a drug** (for more information about restrictions to coverage, see Section 4 in this chapter).
- **Replace a brand-name drug with a generic drug.**

In almost all cases, we must get approval from Medicare for changes we make to the plan's Drug List.

Section 6.2 What happens if coverage changes for a drug you are taking?

How will you find out if your drug's coverage has been changed?

If there is a change to coverage *for a drug you are taking*, the plan will send you a notice to tell you. Normally, **we will let you know at least 60 days ahead of time.**

Once in a while, a drug is **suddenly recalled** because it's been found to be unsafe or for other reasons. If this happens, the plan will immediately remove the drug from the Drug List. We will let you know of this change right away. Your provider will also know about this change, and can work with you to find another drug for your condition.

Do changes to your drug coverage affect you right away?

If any of the following types of changes affect a drug you are taking, the change will not affect you until January 1 of the next year if you stay in the plan:

- If we move your drug into a higher cost-sharing tier.
- If we put a new restriction on your use of the drug.
- If we remove your drug from the Drug List, but not because of a sudden recall or because a new generic drug has replaced it.

If any of these changes happens for a drug you are taking, then the change won't affect your use or what you pay as your share of the cost until January 1 of the next year. Until that date, you probably won't see any increase in your payments or any added restriction to your use of the drug. However, on January 1 of the next year, the changes will affect you.

In some cases, you will be affected by the coverage change before January 1:

- **If a brand-name drug you are taking is replaced by a new generic drug**, the plan must give you at least 60 days' notice or give you a 60-day refill of your brand-name drug at a network pharmacy.
 - During this 60-day period, you should be working with your provider to switch to the generic or to a different drug that we cover.

- Or you and your provider can ask the plan to make an exception and continue to cover the brand-name drug for you. For information on how to ask for an exception, see Chapter 7 (*What to do if you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)*).
- Again, if a drug is **suddenly recalled** because it's been found to be unsafe or for other reasons, the plan will immediately remove the drug from the Drug List. We will let you know of this change right away.
 - Your provider will also know about this change, and can work with you to find another drug for your condition.

SECTION 7

WHAT TYPES OF DRUGS ARE NOT COVERED BY THE PLAN?

Section 7.1 Types of drugs we do not cover

This section tells you what kinds of prescription drugs are “excluded.” This means Medicare does not pay for these drugs.

If you get drugs that are excluded, you must pay for them yourself. We won't pay for the drugs that are listed in this section (except for certain excluded drugs covered under our enhanced drug coverage option). The only exception: If the requested drug is found upon appeal to be a drug that is not excluded under Part D and we should have paid for or covered it because of your specific situation. (For information about appealing a decision we have made to not cover a drug, go to Chapter 7, Section 5.5 in this booklet.)

Here are three general rules about drugs that Medicare drug plans will not cover under Part D:

- Our plan's Part D drug coverage cannot cover a drug that would be covered under Medicare

Part A or Part B.

- Our plan cannot cover a drug purchased outside the United States and its territories.
- Our plan usually cannot cover off-label use. “Off-label use” is any use of the drug other than those indicated on a drug's label as approved by the Food and Drug Administration.
 - Generally, coverage for “off-label use” is allowed only when the use is supported by certain reference books. These reference books are the American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information, the DRUGDEX Information System, and the USPDI or its successor. If the use is not supported by any of these reference books, then our plan cannot cover its “off-label use.”

Also, by law, these categories of drugs are not covered by Medicare drug plans unless we offer enhanced drug coverage, for which you may be charged additional premium:

- Non-prescription drugs (also called over-the-counter drugs)
- Drugs when used to promote fertility
- Drugs when used for the relief of cough or cold symptoms
- Drugs when used for cosmetic purposes or to promote hair growth
- Prescription vitamins and mineral products, except prenatal vitamins and fluoride preparations
- Drugs when used for the treatment of sexual or erectile dysfunction, such as Viagra, Cialis, Levitra, and Caverject
- Drugs when used for the treatment of anorexia, weight loss, or weight gain
- Outpatient drugs for which the manufacturer seeks to require that associated tests or monitoring services be purchased exclusively from the manufacturer as a condition of sale
- Barbiturates and Benzodiazepines

The Enhanced Medicare Rx Option includes additional coverage of some prescription drugs not normally covered in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan. These drugs include:

- Prescription drugs when used for the symptomatic relief of cough or colds
- Prescription vitamins and mineral products except prenatal vitamins and fluoride preparations
- Barbiturates and Benzodiazepines

The amount you pay when you fill a prescription for these drugs does not count towards your initial coverage limit or total out-of-pocket costs. In other words, the amount you pay does not help you move through the benefit or qualify for catastrophic coverage. (The Catastrophic Coverage Stage is described in Chapter 4, Section 6 of this booklet.)

In addition, if you are **receiving Extra Help from Medicare** to pay for your prescriptions, the Extra Help program will not pay for the drugs not normally covered. (Please refer to your formulary or call Prescription Solutions for more information.) However, if you have drug coverage through Medicaid, your state Medicaid program may cover some prescription drugs not normally covered in a Medicare drug plan. Please contact your state Medicaid program to determine what drug coverage may be available to you. (You can find phone numbers and contact information for Medicaid in Chapter 2, Section 6.)

SECTION 8

SHOW YOUR PLAN MEMBERSHIP CARD WHEN YOU FILL A PRESCRIPTION

Section 8.1 Show your membership card

To fill your prescription, show your plan membership card at the network pharmacy you choose. When you show your plan membership card, the network pharmacy will automatically bill the plan for *our* share of your covered prescription drug cost. You will need to pay the pharmacy *your* share of the cost when you pick up your prescription.

Section 8.2 What if you don't have your membership card with you?

If you don't have your plan membership card with you when you fill your prescription, ask the pharmacy to call the plan to get the necessary information. If the pharmacy is not able to get the necessary information, **you may have to pay the full cost of the prescription when you pick it up.** (You can then **ask us to reimburse you** for our share. See Chapter 5, Section 2.1 for information about how to ask the plan for reimbursement.)

SECTION 9

PART D DRUG COVERAGE IN SPECIAL SITUATIONS

Section 9.1 What if you're in a hospital or a skilled nursing facility for a stay that is covered by Original Medicare ?

If you are **admitted to a hospital** for a stay covered by Original Medicare, Medicare Part A will generally cover the cost of your prescription drugs during your stay. Once you leave the hospital, our plan will cover your drugs as long as the drugs meet all of our rules for coverage. See the previous parts of this chapter that tell about the rules for getting drug coverage.

If you are **admitted to a skilled nursing facility** for a stay covered by Original Medicare, Medicare Part A will generally cover your prescription drugs during all or part of your stay. If you are still in the skilled nursing facility, and Part A is no longer covering your drugs, our plan will cover your drugs as long as the drugs meet all of our rules for coverage. See the previous parts of this chapter that tell about the rules for getting drug coverage.

Please Note: When you enter, live in, or leave a skilled nursing facility, you are entitled to a special enrollment period. During this time period, you can switch plans or change your coverage at any time. (Chapter 8, *Ending your membership in the plan*, tells how you can leave our plan and join a different Medicare plan.)

Section 9.2 What if you're a resident in a long-term care facility?

Usually, a long-term care facility (such as a nursing home) has its own pharmacy, or a pharmacy that supplies drugs for all of its residents. If you are a resident of a long-term care facility, you may get your prescription drugs through the facility's

pharmacy as long as it is part of our network.

Check your *Pharmacy Directory* to find out if your long-term care facility's pharmacy is part of our network. If it isn't, or if you need more information, please contact Prescription Solutions.

What if you're a resident in a long-term care facility and become a new member of the plan?

If you need a drug that is not on our Drug List or is restricted in some way, the plan will cover a **temporary supply** of your drug during the first 90 days of your membership. The first supply will be for a maximum of a 31-day supply, or less if your prescription is written for fewer days. If needed, we will cover additional refills during your first 90 days in the plan.

If you have been a member of the plan for more than 90 days and need a drug that is not on our Drug List or if the plan has any restriction on the drug's coverage, we will cover one 31-day supply, or less if your prescription is written for fewer days.

During the time when you are getting a temporary supply of a drug, you should talk with your provider to decide what to do when your temporary supply runs out. Perhaps there is a different drug covered by the plan that might work just as well for you. Or you and your provider can ask the plan to make an exception for you and cover the drug in the way you would like it to be covered. If you and your provider want to ask for an exception, Chapter 7 tells what to do.

Section 9.3 What if you are taking drugs covered by Original Medicare?

Your enrollment in the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option doesn't affect your coverage for drugs covered under Medicare Part A or Part B. If you meet Medicare's coverage requirements, your drug will still be covered under Medicare Part A or Part B, even though you are enrolled this plan.

In addition, if your drug would be covered by Medicare Part A or Part B, our plan can't cover it, even if you choose not to enroll in Part A or Part B.

Some drugs may be covered under Medicare Part B in some situations and through the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option in other situations. But drugs are never covered by both Part B and our plan at the same time. In general, your pharmacist or provider will determine whether to bill Medicare Part B or your Medicare Rx Option for the drug.

Section 9.4 What if you have a Medigap (Medicare Supplement Insurance) policy with prescription drug coverage?

If you are enrolled in the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option on a standalone basis (not enrolled in the HOP Medical Plan) and currently have a Medigap policy that includes coverage for prescription drugs, you must contact your Medigap issuer and tell them you have enrolled in our plan. If you decide to keep your current Medigap policy, your Medigap issuer will remove the prescription drug coverage portion of your Medigap policy and lower your premium.

Each year your Medigap insurance company should send you a notice that tells if your prescription drug coverage is "creditable," and the choices you have for drug coverage. (If the coverage from the Medigap policy is "**creditable**," it means that it is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage.) The notice will also explain how much your premium would be lowered if you remove the prescription drug coverage portion of your Medigap policy. If you didn't get this notice, or if you can't find it, contact your Medicare insurance company and ask for another copy.

Section 9.5 What if you're also getting drug coverage from an employer or retiree group plan?

Do you currently have other prescription drug coverage through your (or your spouse's) employer or retiree group? If so, please contact **that group's benefits administrator**. He or she can help you determine how your current prescription drug coverage will work with our plan.

In general, if you are currently employed, the prescription drug coverage you get from us will be *secondary* to your employer or retiree group coverage. That means your group coverage would pay first.

Special note about 'creditable coverage'

Each year your employer or retiree group should send you a notice that tells if your prescription drug coverage for the next calendar year is "creditable" and the choices you have for drug coverage.

If the coverage from the group plan is "**creditable**," it means that it has drug coverage that is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage.

Keep these notices about creditable coverage, because you may need them later. If you enroll in a Medicare plan that includes Part D drug coverage, you may need these notices to show that you have maintained creditable coverage. If you didn't get a notice about creditable coverage from your employer or retiree group plan, you can get a copy from the employer or retiree group's benefits administrator or the employer or union.

SECTION 10

PROGRAMS ON DRUG SAFETY AND MANAGING MEDICATIONS

Section 10.1 Programs to help members use drugs safely

We conduct drug use reviews for our members to help make sure that they are getting safe and appropriate care. These reviews are especially important for members who have more than one provider who prescribes their drugs.

We do a review each time you fill a prescription. We also review our records on a regular basis. During these reviews, we look for potential problems such as:

- Possible medication errors.
- Drugs that may not be necessary because you are taking another drug to treat the same medical condition.
- Drugs that may not be safe or appropriate because of your age or gender.
- Certain combinations of drugs that could harm you if taken at the same time.
- Prescriptions written for drugs that have ingredients you are allergic to.
- Possible errors in the amount (dosage) of a drug you are taking.

If we see a possible problem in your use of medications, we will work with your provider to correct the problem.

Section 10.2 Programs to help members manage their medications

We have programs that can help our members with special situations. For example, some members have several complex medical conditions or they may need to take many drugs at the same time, or they could have very high drug costs.

These programs are voluntary and free to members. A team of pharmacists and doctors developed the programs for us. The programs can help make sure that our members are using the drugs that work best to treat their medical conditions and help us identify possible medication errors.

If we have a program that fits your needs, we will automatically enroll you in the program and send you information. If you decide not to participate, please notify us and we will withdraw your participation in the program. If you have any questions about these programs, please contact Prescription Solutions (phone numbers are on the front cover).

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Did you know there are programs to help people pay for their drugs?

There are programs to help people with limited resources pay for their drugs. These include “Extra Help” and State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs. For more information, see Chapter 2, Section 7.

Are you currently getting help to pay for your drugs?

If you are in a program that helps pay for your drugs, **some information in this Evidence of Coverage about the costs for Part D prescription drugs may not apply to you.** We send you a separate insert, called the “Evidence of Coverage Rider for People Who Get Extra Help Paying for Prescription Drugs” (LIS Rider) that tells you about your drug coverage. If you don’t have this insert, please call the HOP Administration Unit. Phone numbers for the HOP Administration Unit are on the front cover.

SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

Section 1.1 Use this chapter together with other materials that explain your drug coverage

This chapter focuses on what you pay for your Part D prescription drugs. To keep things simple, we use “drug” in this chapter to mean a Part D prescription drug. As explained in Chapter 3, not all drugs are part D drugs—some drugs are covered under Medicare Part A or Part B and other drugs are excluded from Medicare coverage by law. Some excluded drugs may be covered under the Enhanced Medicare Rx Option.

To understand the payment information we give you in this chapter, you need to know the basics of what drugs are covered, where to fill your prescriptions, and what rules to follow when you get your covered drugs. Here are materials that explain these basics:

- **The plan’s List of Covered Drugs (Formulary).** To keep things simple, we call this the “Drug List.”

- This Drug List tells which drugs are covered for you.
- It also tells which of the four “cost-sharing tiers” the drug is in and whether there are any restrictions on your coverage for the drug.
- If you need a copy of the Drug List, call the HOP Administration Unit (phone numbers are on the cover of this booklet). You can also find the Drug List on our website at www.HOPbenefits.com. The Drug List on the website is always the most current.
- **Chapter 3 of this booklet.** Chapter 3 gives the details about your prescription drug coverage, including rules you need to follow when you get your covered drugs. Chapter 3 also tells which types of prescription drugs are not covered by our plan.
- **The plan’s Pharmacy Directory.** In most situations you must use a network pharmacy to get your covered drugs (see Chapter 3 for the details). The Pharmacy Directory has a list of pharmacies in the plan’s network. It also explains how you can get a long-term supply of a drug (such as filling a prescription for a three-month supply).

SECTION 2

WHAT YOU PAY FOR A DRUG DEPENDS ON WHICH “DRUG PAYMENT STAGE” YOU ARE IN WHEN YOU GET THE DRUG

Section 2.1 What are the drug payment stages for Basic and Enhanced Medicare Rx Option members?

As shown in the table below, there are three “drug payment stages” for your prescription drug coverage under the Basic and Enhanced Medicare Rx Options. How much you pay for a drug depends on which of these stages you are in at the time you get a prescription filled or refilled. Keep in mind you are always responsible for the plan’s monthly premium regardless of the drug payment stage.

STAGE 1 YEARLY DEDUCTIBLE STAGE	STAGE 2 INITIAL COVERAGE STAGE	STAGE 3 COVERAGE GAP STAGE	STAGE 4 CATASTROPHIC COVERAGE STAGE
<p>Because there is no deductible for the plan, this payment stage does not apply to you.</p>	<p>You begin in this stage when you fill your first prescription of the year.</p> <p>During this stage, the plan pays its share of the cost of your drugs and you pay your share of the cost.</p> <p>You stay in this stage until your year-to-date “total drug costs” (your payments plus any Part D plan’s payments) total \$2,930.</p> <p>(Details are in Section 5 of this chapter.)</p>	<p>Under the Basic Medicare Rx Option, during this stage, you pay 50% of the price (plus the dispensing fee) for brand-name drugs and 86% of the price for generic drugs.</p> <p>Under the Enhanced Medicare Rx Option, during this stage, you pay 50% of the price (plus the dispensing fee) for brand-name drugs and 50% of the cost for generic drugs to a maximum of \$7 for up to a 33-day supply or \$21 for a 34- to 90-day supply.</p> <p>You stay in this stage until your year-to-date “out-of-pocket costs” (your payments) reach a total of \$4,700. This amount and rules for counting costs toward this amount have been set by Medicare.</p> <p>(Details are in Section 6 of this chapter.)</p>	<p>During this stage, the plan will pay most of the cost of your drugs for the rest of the calendar year (through December 31, 2012).</p> <p>(Details are in Section 7 of this chapter.)</p>

SECTION 3

WE SEND YOU REPORTS THAT EXPLAIN PAYMENTS FOR YOUR DRUGS AND WHICH PAYMENT STAGE YOU ARE IN

Section 3.1 We send you a monthly report called the “Explanation of Benefits”

Our plan keeps track of the costs of your prescription drugs and the payments you have made when you get your prescriptions filled or refilled at the pharmacy. This way, we can tell you when you have moved from one drug payment stage to the next. In particular, there are two types of costs we keep track of:

- We keep track of how much you have paid. This is called your **“out-of-pocket”** cost.
- We keep track of your **“total drug costs.”** This is the amount you pay out-of-pocket or others pay on your behalf plus the amount paid by the plan.

Our plan will prepare a written report called the *Explanation of Benefits* (it is sometimes called the “EOB”) when you have had one or more prescriptions filled through the plan during the previous month. It includes:

- **Information for that month.** This report gives the payment details about the prescriptions you have filled during the previous month. It shows the total drug costs, what the plan paid, and what you and others on your behalf paid.
- **Totals for the year since January 1.** This is called “year-to-date” information. It shows you the total drug costs and total payments for your drugs since the year began.

Section 3.2 Help us keep our information about your drug payments up to date

To keep track of your drug costs and the payments you make for drugs, we use records we get from pharmacies. Here is how you can help us keep your information correct and up to date:

- **Show your membership card when you get a prescription filled.** To make sure we know about the prescriptions you are filling and what you are paying, show your plan membership card every time you get a prescription filled.
- **Make sure we have the information we need.** There are times you may pay for prescription drugs when we will not automatically get the information we need to keep track of your out-of-pocket costs. To help us keep track of your out-of-pocket costs, you may give us copies of receipts for drugs that you have purchased. (If you are billed for a covered drug, you can ask our plan to pay our share of the cost. For instructions on how to do this, go to Chapter 5, Section 2 of this booklet.) Here are some types of situations when you may want to give us copies of your drug receipts to be sure we have a complete record of what you have spent for your drugs:
 - When you purchase a covered drug at a network pharmacy at a special price or using a discount card that is not part of our plan’s benefit.
 - When you made a copayment for drugs that are provided under a drug manufacturer patient assistance program.
 - Any time you have purchased covered drugs at out-of-network pharmacies or other times you have paid the full price for a covered drug under special circumstances.
- **Send us information about the payments others have made for you.** Payments made by certain other individuals and organizations also count toward your out-of-pocket costs

and help qualify you for catastrophic coverage. For example, payments made by a State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program, an AIDS drug assistance program, the Indian Health Service, and most charities count toward your out-of-pocket costs. You should keep a record of these payments and send them to us so we can track your costs.

- **Check the written report we send you.** When you receive an *Explanation of Benefits* (an EOB) in the mail, please look it over to be sure the information is complete and correct. If you think something is missing from the report, or you have any questions, please call Prescription Solutions (phone numbers are on the cover of this booklet). Be sure to keep these reports. They are an important record of your drug expenses.

SECTION 4

THERE IS NO DEDUCTIBLE FOR THE BASIC OR ENHANCED MEDICARE RX OPTION

Section 4.1 **You do not pay a deductible for your Part D drugs.**

There is no deductible for the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option. You begin in the Initial Coverage Stage when you fill your first prescription of the year. See Section 5 for information about your coverage in the Initial Coverage Stage.

SECTION 5

DURING THE INITIAL COVERAGE STAGE, THE PLAN PAYS ITS SHARE OF YOUR DRUG COSTS AND YOU PAY YOUR SHARE

Section 5.1 **What you pay for a drug depends on the drug and where you fill your prescription**

During the Initial Coverage Stage, the plan pays its share of the cost of your covered prescription drugs, and you pay your share (your copay or coinsurance amount). Your share of the cost will vary depending on the drug and where you fill your prescription.

The plan has four cost-sharing tiers

Every drug on the plan's Drug List is in one of four cost-sharing tiers. In general, the higher the cost-sharing tier number, the higher your cost for the drug:

- Tier 1 includes generic drugs
- Tier 2 includes preferred brand-name drugs
- Tier 3 includes non-preferred brand-name drugs
- Tier 4 includes specialty drugs

To find out which cost-sharing tier your drug is in, look it up in the plan's Drug List.

Your pharmacy choices

How much you pay for a drug depends on whether you get the drug from:

- a retail pharmacy that is in our plan's network
- a pharmacy that is not in the plan's network
- the plan's mail-order pharmacy

For more information about these pharmacy choices and filling your prescriptions, see Chapter 3 in this booklet and the plan's *Pharmacy Directory*.

Section 5.2 A table that shows your costs for a one-month supply of a drug

During the Initial Coverage Stage, your share of the cost of a covered drug will be either a copayment or coinsurance.

- **“Copayment”** means that you pay a fixed amount each time you fill a prescription.
- **“Coinsurance”** means that you pay a percent of the total cost of the drug each time you fill a prescription.
- If your covered drug costs less than the copayment amount listed in the chart, you will pay that lower price for the drug. You pay *either* the full price of the drug *or* the copayment amount, *whichever is lower*.
- We cover prescriptions filled at out-of-network pharmacies in only limited situations. Please see Chapter 5, Section 2.5 for information about when we will cover a prescription filled at an out-of-network pharmacy.

As shown in the table below, the amount of the copayment or coinsurance depends on which tier your drug is in and number of days' supply you receive. Please note:

- If your covered drug costs less than the copayment amount listed in the chart, you will pay that lower price for the drug. You pay *either* the full price of the drug *or* the copayment amount, *whichever is lower*.
- We cover prescriptions filled at out-of-network pharmacies in only limited situations. Please see Chapter 5, Section 2.5 for information about when we will cover a prescription filled at an out-of-network pharmacy.

Your share of the cost when you get a one-month supply (33 days or less) of a covered Part D prescription drug

	BASIC MEDICARE RX OPTION	ENHANCED MEDICARE RX OPTION
Generic Drugs Cost-Sharing Tier 1	\$7 for up to a 33-day supply	\$7 for up to a 33-day supply
Preferred Brand-name Drugs Cost-Sharing Tier 2	30% coinsurance (to a maximum of \$50)	25% coinsurance (to a maximum of \$50)
Non-preferred Brand-name drugs Cost-Sharing Tier 3	40% (no maximum)	25% coinsurance (to a maximum of \$50)
Specialty Drugs Cost-Sharing Tier 4	33% coinsurance	33% coinsurance

Section 5.3 A table that shows your costs for a *long-term* (up to a 90-day) supply of a drug

For some drugs, you can get a long-term supply (also called an “extended supply”) when you fill your prescription. A long-term supply is up to a 90-day supply. (For details on where and how to get a long-term supply of a drug, see Chapter 3.)

The table below shows what you pay when you get a long-term (up to a 90-day) supply of a drug.

- Please note: If your covered drug costs less than the copayment amount listed in the chart, you will pay that lower price for the drug. You pay *either* the full price of the drug *or* the copayment amount, *whichever is lower*.

Your share of the cost when you get a long-term supply of a covered Part D prescription drug from:

	BASIC MEDICARE RX OPTION	ENHANCED MEDICARE RX OPTION
Generic Drugs Cost-Sharing Tier 1	\$21 for a 34- to 90-day supply	\$21 for a 34- to 90-day supply
Preferred Brand-name Drugs Cost-Sharing Tier 2	30% coinsurance (to a maximum of \$100)	25% coinsurance (to a maximum of \$90)
Non-preferred Brand-name drugs Cost-Sharing Tier 3	40% (no maximum)	25% coinsurance (to a maximum of \$90)
Specialty Drugs Cost-Sharing Tier 4	33% coinsurance	33% coinsurance

Section 5.4 You stay in the Initial Coverage Stage until your total drug costs for the year reach \$2,930

You stay in the Initial Coverage Stage until the total amount for the prescription drugs you have filled and refilled reaches the **\$2,930 limit for the Initial Coverage Stage**.

Your total drug cost is based on adding together what you have paid and what any Part D plan has paid:

- **What you have paid** for all the covered drugs you have gotten since you started with your first drug purchase of the year. (See Section 6.2 for more information about how Medicare calculates your out-of-pocket costs.) This includes the total you paid as your share of the cost for your drugs during the Initial Coverage Stage. (If you were enrolled in a different Part D plan at any time during 2012, the amount that plan paid during the Initial Coverage Stage also counts toward your total drug costs.)
- **What the plan has paid** as its share of the cost for your drugs during the Initial Coverage Stage. (If you were enrolled in a different Part D plan at any time during 2012, the amount that the plan paid during the Initial Coverage Stage also counts toward your total drug costs.)

Payments for drugs covered under the Enhanced Medicare Rx Option that are not normally covered in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan will not count towards your initial coverage limit or total out-of-pocket costs.

The *Explanation of Benefits* that we send to you will help you keep track of how much you and the plan have spent for your drugs during the year. Many people do not reach the \$2,930 limit in a year.

We will let you know if you reach this \$2,930 amount. If you do reach this amount, you will leave the Initial Coverage Stage and move on to the Coverage Gap Stage.

SECTION 6

DURING THE COVERAGE GAP STAGE, WHAT YOU PAY DEPENDS ON YOUR MEDICARE Rx OPTION

Section 6.1 You stay in the Coverage Gap Stage until your out-of-pocket costs reach \$4,700

If you are enrolled in the Basic Medicare Rx Option

When you are in the Coverage Gap Stage, the Medicare Coverage Gap Discount Program provides manufacturer discounts on brand-name drugs. You pay 50% of the negotiated price (excluding the dispensing fee and vaccine administration fee, if any) for brand name drugs. Both the amount you pay and the amount discounted by the manufacturer count toward your out-of-pocket costs as if you had paid them and moves you through the coverage gap.

You also receive some coverage for generic drugs. You pay 86% of the cost for generic drugs and the plan pays the rest. For generic drugs, the amount paid by the plan (14%) does not count toward your out-of-pocket costs. Only the amount you pay counts and moves you through the coverage gap.

You continue paying the discounted price for brand name drugs and 86% of the costs of generic drugs until your yearly out-of-pocket payments reach a maximum amount that Medicare has set. In 2012, that amount is \$4,700.

Medicare has rules about what counts and what does *not* count as your out-of-pocket costs. When you reach an out-of-pocket limit of \$4,700, you leave the Coverage Gap Stage and move on to the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.

If you are enrolled in the Enhanced Medicare Rx Option

When you are in the Coverage Gap Stage, the Medicare Coverage Gap Discount Program provides manufacturer discounts on brand-name drugs. You pay 50% of the negotiated price (excluding the dispensing fee and vaccine administration fee, if any) for brand name drugs. Both the amount you pay and the amount discounted by the manufacturer count toward your out-of-pocket costs as if you had paid them and moves you through the coverage gap.

You also receive some coverage for generic drugs. You pay 50% of the cost for generic drugs to a maximum of \$7 for up to a 33-day supply or \$21 for a 34- to 90-day supply and the plan pays the rest. For generic drugs, the amount paid by the plan does not count toward your out-of-pocket costs. Only the amount you pay counts and moves you through the coverage gap.

You continue paying the discounted price for brand name drugs and your share of the costs of generic drugs until your yearly out-of-pocket payments reach a maximum amount that Medicare has set. In 2012, that amount is \$4,700.

Medicare has rules about what counts and what does *not* count as your out-of-pocket costs. When you reach an out-of-pocket limit of \$4,700, you leave the Coverage Gap Stage and move on to the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.

Section 6.2 How Medicare calculates your out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs

Here are Medicare's rules that we must follow when we keep track of your out-of-pocket costs for your drugs.

These payments are included in your out-of-pocket costs

When you add up your out-of-pocket costs, **you can include** the payments listed below (as long as they are for Part D covered drugs and you followed the rules for drug coverage that are explained in Chapter 3 of this booklet):

- The amount you pay for drugs when you are in any of the following drug payment stages:
 - The Initial Coverage Stage
 - The Coverage Gap Stage
- Any payments you made during this calendar year as a member of a different Medicare prescription drug plan before you joined our plan.

It matters who pays:

- If you make these payments **yourself**, they are included in your out-of-pocket costs.
- These payments are also included if they are made on your behalf by **certain other individuals or organizations**. This includes payments for your drugs made by a friend or relative, by most charities, by AIDS drug assistance programs, by the Indian Health Service, or by a State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program that is qualified by Medicare. Payments made by Medicare's "Extra Help" Program are also included.

Moving on to the Catastrophic Coverage Stage:

When you (or those paying on your behalf) have spent a total of \$4,700 in out-of-pocket costs within the calendar year, you will move from the Coverage Gap Stage to the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.

These payments are **not** included in your out-of-pocket costs

When you add up your out-of-pocket costs, you are **not allowed to include** any of these types of payments for prescription drugs:

- The amount you pay for your monthly premium.
- Drugs you buy outside the United States and its territories.
- Drugs that are not covered by our plan.
- Drugs you get at an out-of-network pharmacy that do not meet the plan's requirements for out-of-network coverage.
- Under the Enhanced Medicare Rx Option, non-Part D drugs.
- Prescription drugs covered by Part A or Part B.
- Payments you make toward drugs covered under our the Enhanced Medicare Rx Option that are not normally covered in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan.
- Payments made by the plan for your generic drugs while in the Coverage Gap.
- Payments for your drugs that are made by group health plans including employer health plans.
- Payments for your drugs that are made by insurance plans and government-funded health programs such as TRICARE and the Veteran's Administration.
- Payments for your drugs made by a third-party with a legal obligation to pay for prescription costs (for example, Worker's Compensation).

Reminder: If any other organization such as the ones listed above pays part or all of your out-of-pocket costs for drugs, you are required to tell our plan. Call Prescription Solutions to let us know (phone numbers are on the cover of this booklet).

How can you keep track of your out-of-pocket total?

- **We will help you.** The *Explanation of Benefits* report we send to you includes the current amount of your out-of-pocket costs (Section 3 above tells about this report). When you reach a total of \$4,700 in out-of-pocket costs for the year, this report will tell you that you have left the Coverage Gap Stage and have moved on to the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.
- **Make sure we have the information we need.** Section 3.2 tells what you can do to help make sure that our records of what you have spent are complete and up to date.

SECTION 7 DURING THE CATASTROPHIC COVERAGE STAGE, THE PLAN PAYS MOST OF THE COST FOR YOUR DRUGS

Section 7.1 **Once you are in the Catastrophic Coverage Stage, you will stay in this stage for the rest of the year**

You qualify for the Catastrophic Coverage Stage when your out-of-pocket costs have reached the

\$4,700 limit for the calendar year. Once you are in the Catastrophic Coverage Stage, you will stay in this payment stage until the end of the calendar year.

During this stage, the plan will pay most of the cost for your drugs.

- **Your share** of the cost for a covered drug will be either coinsurance or a copayment, whichever is the *larger* amount:
 - *Either* coinsurance of 5% of the cost of the drug, or
 - A \$2.60 copayment for a generic drug or a drug that is treated like a generic, or a \$6.50 copayment for brand-name drugs.
- **Our plan pays the rest** of the cost.

SECTION 8 ADDITIONAL BENEFITS INFORMATION

Section 8.1 **Our plan offers additional benefits**

SECTION 9 WHAT YOU PAY FOR VACCINATIONS COVERED BY PART D DEPENDS ON HOW AND WHERE YOU GET THEM

Section 9.1 **Our plan has separate coverage for the Part D vaccine medication itself and for the cost of giving you the vaccination shot**

Our plan provides coverage of a number of Part D vaccines. There are two parts to our coverage of vaccinations:

- The first part of coverage is the cost of **the vaccine medication itself**. The vaccine is a prescription medication.
- The second part of coverage is for the cost of **giving you the vaccination shot**. (This is sometimes called the “administration” of the vaccine.)

What do you pay for a vaccination?

What you pay for a vaccination depends on three things:

1. The type of vaccine (what you are being vaccinated for).

- Some vaccines are considered Part D drugs. You can find these vaccines listed in the plan’s Drug List.
- Other vaccines are considered medical benefits. They are covered under Original Medicare.

2. Where you get the vaccine medication.

3. Who gives you the vaccination shot.

What you pay at the time you get the Part D vaccination can vary depending on the circumstances. For example:

- Sometimes when you get your vaccination shot, you will have to pay the entire cost for both the vaccine medication and for getting the vaccination shot. You can ask our plan to pay you back for our share of the cost.
- Other times, when you get the vaccine medication or the vaccination shot, you will pay only your share of the cost.

To show how this works, here are three common ways you might get a vaccination shot.

Situation 1

You buy the Part D vaccine at the pharmacy and you get your vaccination shot at the network pharmacy. (Whether you have this choice depends on where you live. Some states do not allow pharmacies to administer a vaccination.)

- You will have to pay the pharmacy the amount of your copayment or coinsurance for the vaccine and administration of the vaccine.

Situation 2:

You get the Part D vaccination at your doctor's office.

- When you get the vaccination, you will pay for the entire cost of the vaccine and its administration.
- You can then ask our plan to pay our share of the cost by using the procedures that are described in Chapter 5 of this booklet (*Asking us to pay our share of the costs for covered drugs*).
- You will be reimbursed the amount you paid less your normal coinsurance or copayment for the vaccine (including administration) less any difference between the amount the doctor charges and what we normally pay. (If you get Extra Help, we will reimburse you for this difference.)

Situation 3:

You buy the Part D vaccine at your pharmacy, and then take it to your doctor's office where they give you the vaccination shot.

- You will have to pay the pharmacy the amount of your coinsurance or copayment for the vaccine itself.
- When your doctor gives you the vaccination shot, you will pay the entire cost for this service. You can then ask our plan to pay our share of the cost by using the procedures described in Chapter 5 of this booklet.
- You will be reimbursed the amount charged by the doctor less the amount for administering the vaccine less any difference between the amount the doctor charges and what we normally pay. (If you get Extra Help, we will reimburse you for this difference.)

Section 9.2 You may want to call Prescription Solutions before you get a vaccination

The rules for coverage of vaccinations are complicated. We are here to help. We recommend that you call Prescription Solutions whenever you are planning to get a vaccination (phone numbers are on the cover of this booklet).

- We can tell you about how your vaccination is covered by our plan and explain your share of the cost.
- We can tell you how to keep your own cost down by using providers and pharmacies in our network.
- If you are not able to use a network provider and pharmacy, we can tell you what you need to do to get payment from us for our share of the cost.

SECTION 10 DO YOU HAVE TO PAY THE PART D “LATE ENROLLMENT PENALTY”?

Section 10.1 What is the Part D “late enrollment penalty”?

Note: If you receive “Extra Help” from Medicare to pay for your prescription drugs, the late enrollment penalty rules do not apply to you. You will not pay a late enrollment penalty, even if you go without “creditable” prescription drug coverage.

You may pay a financial penalty if you did not enroll in a plan offering Medicare Part D drug coverage when you first became eligible for this drug coverage or you experienced a continuous period of 63 days or more when you didn't have creditable prescription drug coverage. (“Creditable prescription drug coverage” is coverage that meets

Medicare's minimum standards since it is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage.) The amount of the penalty depends on how long you waited to enroll in a creditable prescription drug coverage plan any time after the end of your initial enrollment period or how many full calendar months you went without creditable prescription drug coverage.

The penalty is added to your monthly premium. When you first enroll in the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option, we let you know the amount of the penalty. Your late enrollment penalty is considered to be part of your plan premium. If you do not pay the part of your premium that is the late enrollment penalty, you could be disenrolled for failure to pay your plan premium.

Section 10.2 How much is the Part D late enrollment penalty?

Medicare determines the amount of the penalty. Here is how it works:

- First count the number of full months that you delayed enrolling in a Medicare drug plan, after you were eligible to enroll. Or count the number of full months in which you did not have credible prescription drug coverage, if the break in coverage was 63 days or more. The penalty is 1% for every month that you didn't have creditable coverage. For our example, let's say it is 14 months without coverage, which will be 14%.
- Then Medicare determines the amount of the average monthly premium for Medicare drug plans in the nation from the previous year. For 2012, this average premium amount is \$31.08.
- You multiply together the two numbers to get your monthly penalty and round it to the nearest 10 cents. In the example here it would be 14% times \$31.08, which equals \$4.35, which rounds to \$4.40. This amount would be added **to the monthly premium for someone with a late enrollment penalty.**

There are three important things to note about this monthly premium penalty:

- First, **the penalty may change each year**, because the average monthly premium can change each year. If the national average premium (as determined by Medicare) increases, your penalty will increase.
- Second, **you will continue to pay a penalty** every month for as long as you are enrolled in a plan that has Medicare Part D drug benefits.
- Third, if you are under 65 and currently receiving Medicare benefits, the late enrollment penalty will reset when you turn 65. After age 65, your late enrollment penalty will be based only on the months that you don't have coverage after your Initial Enrollment Period for aging into Medicare.

If you are eligible for Medicare and are under 65, any late enrollment penalty you are paying will be eliminated when you attain age 65. After age 65, your late enrollment penalty is based only on the months you do not have coverage after your Age 65 Initial Enrollment Period.

Section 10.3 In some situations, you can enroll late and not have to pay the penalty

Even if you have delayed enrolling in a plan offering Medicare Part D coverage when you were first eligible, sometimes you do not have to pay the late enrollment penalty.

You will not have to pay a premium penalty for late enrollment if you are in any of these situations:

- If you already have prescription drug coverage that is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage. Medicare calls this "**creditable drug coverage.**" Please note:
 - Creditable coverage could include drug coverage from a former employer or union, TRICARE, or the Department of Veterans

Affairs. Your insurer or your human resources department will tell you each year if your drug coverage is creditable coverage. This information may be sent to you in a letter or included in a newsletter from the plan. Keep this information, because you may need it if you join a Medicare drug plan later.

- Please note: If you receive a “certificate of creditable coverage” when your health coverage ends, it may not mean your prescription drug coverage was creditable. The notice must state that you had “creditable” prescription drug coverage that expected to pay as much as Medicare’s standard prescription drug plan pays.
- The following are *not* creditable prescription drug coverage: prescription drug discount cards, free clinics, and drug discount websites.
- For additional information about creditable coverage, please look in your *Medicare & You* 2012 Handbook or call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users call 1-877-486-2048. You can call these numbers for free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- If you were without creditable coverage, but you were without it for less than 63 days in a row.
- If you are receiving “Extra Help” from Medicare.

Section 10.4 What can you do if you disagree about your late enrollment penalty?

If you disagree about your late enrollment penalty, you or your representative can ask for a review of the decision about your late enrollment penalty. Generally, you must request this review within **60 days** from the date on the letter you receive stating you have to pay a late enrollment penalty. Call the HOP Administration Unit at the number on the front

of this booklet to find out more about how to do this.

Important: Do not stop paying your late enrollment penalty while you’re waiting for a review of the decision about your late enrollment penalty. If you do, you could be disenrolled for failure to pay your plan premiums.

SECTION 11 DO YOU HAVE TO PAY AN EXTRA PART D AMOUNT BECAUSE OF YOUR INCOME?

Section 11.1 Who pays an extra Part D amount because of income?

Most people pay a standard monthly Part D premium. However, some people pay an extra amount because of their yearly income. If your income is \$85,000 or above for an individual (or married individuals filing separately) or \$170,000 or above for married couples, you must pay an extra amount for your Medicare Part D coverage.

If you have to pay an extra amount, the Social Security Administration, not your Medicare plan, will send you a letter telling you what that extra amount will be and how to pay it. The extra amount will be withheld from your Social Security, Railroad Retirement Board, or Office of Personnel Management benefit check, no matter how you usually pay your plan premium, unless your monthly benefit isn’t enough to cover the extra amount owed. If your benefit check isn’t enough to cover the extra amount, you will get a bill from Medicare. The extra amount must be paid separately and cannot be paid with your monthly plan premium.

Section 11.2 How much is the extra Part D amount?

If your modified adjusted gross income as reported on your IRS tax return is above a certain amount, you will pay an extra amount in addition to your monthly plan premium.

The chart below shows the extra amount based on your income.

IF YOU FILED AN INDIVIDUAL TAX RETURN AND YOUR INCOME IN 2010 WAS:	IF YOU WERE MARRIED BUT FILED A SEPARATE TAX RETURN AND YOUR INCOME IN 2010 WAS:	IF YOU FILED A JOINT TAX RETURN AND YOUR INCOME IN 2010 WAS:	THIS IS THE MONTHLY COST OF YOUR EXTRA PART D AMOUNT (TO BE PAID IN ADDITION TO YOUR PLAN PREMIUM)
Equal to or less than \$85,000	Equal to or less than \$85,000	Equal to or less than \$170,000	\$0
Greater than \$85,000 and less than or equal to \$107,000		Greater than \$170,000 and less than or equal to \$214,000	\$11.60
Greater than \$107,000 and less than or equal to \$160,000		Greater than \$214,000 and less than or equal to \$320,000	\$29.90
Greater than \$160,000 and less than or equal to \$214,000	Greater than \$85,000 and less than or equal to \$129,000	Greater than \$320,000 and less than or equal to \$428,000	\$48.10
Greater than \$214,000	Greater than \$129,000	Greater than \$428,000	\$66.40

Section 11.3 What can you do if you disagree about paying an extra Part D amount?

If you disagree about paying an extra amount because of your income, you can ask the Social Security Administration to review the decision. To find out more about how to do this, contact the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

CHAPTER 5 ASKING US TO PAY OUR SHARE OF THE COSTS FOR COVERED DRUGS

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SECTION 1

SITUATIONS IN WHICH YOU SHOULD ASK US TO PAY OUR SHARE OF THE COST OF YOUR COVERED DRUGS

Section 1.1 If you pay our plan's share of the cost of your covered drugs, you can ask us for payment

Sometimes when you get a prescription drug, you may need to pay the full cost right away. Other times, you may find that you have paid more than you expected under the coverage rules of the plan. In either case, you can ask our plan to pay you back (paying you back is often called “reimbursing” you).

Here are examples of situations in which you may need to ask our plan to pay you back. All of these examples are types of coverage decisions (for more information about coverage decisions, go to Chapter 7 of this booklet).

1. When you use an out-of-network pharmacy to get a prescription filled

If you go to an out-of-network pharmacy and try to use your membership card to fill a prescription, the pharmacy may not be able to submit the claim directly to us. When that happens, you will have to pay the full cost of your prescription. (We cover prescriptions filled at out-of-network pharmacies only in a few special situations. Please go to Chapter 3, Section 2.5 to learn more.)

- Save your receipt and send a copy to us when you ask us to pay you back for our share of the cost.

2. When you pay the full cost for a prescription because you don't have your plan membership card with you

If you do not have your plan membership card with you when you fill a prescription at a network

pharmacy, you may need to pay the full cost of the prescription yourself. The pharmacy can usually call the plan to get your member information, but there may be times when you may need to pay if you do not have your card.

- Save your receipt and send a copy to us when you ask us to pay you back for our share of the cost.

3. When you pay the full cost for a prescription in other situations

You may pay the full cost of the prescription because you find that the drug is not covered for some reason.

- For example, the drug may not be on the plan's *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)*; or it could have a requirement or restriction that you didn't know about or don't think should apply to you. If you decide to get the drug immediately, you may need to pay the full cost for it.
- Save your receipt and send a copy to us when you ask us to pay you back. In some situations, we may need to get more information from your doctor in order to pay you back for our share of the cost.

4. If you are retroactively enrolled in our plan.

Sometimes a person's enrollment in the plan is retroactive. (Retroactive means that the first day of their enrollment has already past. The enrollment date may even have occurred last year.) If you were retroactively enrolled in our plan and you paid out-of-pocket for any of your drugs after your enrollment date, you can ask us to pay you back for our share of the costs. You will need to submit paperwork for us to handle the reimbursement.

- Please call the HOP Administration Unit for additional information about how to ask us to pay you back and deadlines for making your request.

All of the examples above are types of coverage decisions. This means that if we deny your request

for payment, you can appeal our decision. Chapter 7 of this booklet (*What to do if you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)*) has information about how to make an appeal.

SECTION 2

HOW TO ASK US TO PAY YOU BACK

Section 2.1 How and where to send us your request for payment

Send us your request for payment, along with your receipt documenting the payment you have made. It's a good idea to make a copy of your receipts for your records.

To make sure you are giving us all the information we need to make a decision, you can fill out our claim form to make your request for payment.

- You don't have to use the form, but it's helpful for our plan to process the information faster.
- You can get a copy of the form by calling Prescription Solutions. The phone numbers are on the cover of this booklet.

Mail your request for payment together with any receipts to:

Prescription Solutions
P.O. Box 29046
Hot Springs, AR 71903

Please be sure to contact Prescription Solutions if you have any questions. If you don't know what you should have paid, we can help. You can also call if you want to give us more information about a request for payment you have already sent to us.

SECTION 3

WE WILL CONSIDER YOUR REQUEST FOR PAYMENT AND SAY YES OR NO

Section 3.1 We check to see whether we should cover the drug and how much we owe

When we receive your request for payment, we will let you know if we need any additional information from you. Otherwise, we will consider your request and make a coverage decision.

- If we decide that the drug is covered and you followed all the rules for getting the drug, we will pay for our share of the cost. We will mail your reimbursement of our share of the cost to you. (Chapter 3 explains the rules you need to follow for getting your Part D prescription drugs.) We will send payment within 30 days after your request was received.
- If we decide that the drug is *not* covered, or you did *not* follow all the rules, we will not pay for our share of the cost. Instead, we will send you a letter that explains the reasons why we are not sending the payment you have requested and your rights to appeal that decision.

Section 3.2 If we tell you that we will not pay for all or part of the drug, you can make an appeal

If you think we have made a mistake in turning down your request for payment or you don't agree with the amount we are paying, you can make an appeal. If you make an appeal, it means you are asking us to change the decision we made when we turned down your request for payment. The examples of situations in which you may need to ask our plan to pay you back:

- When you use an out-of-network pharmacy to get a prescription filled
- When you pay the full cost for a prescription because you don't have your plan membership card with you
- When you pay the full cost for a prescription in other situations

For the details on how to make this appeal, go to Chapter 7 of this booklet (*What to do if you have a problem or complaint (coverage decisions, appeals, complaints)*). The appeals process is a legal process with detailed procedures and important deadlines. If making an appeal is new to you, you will find it helpful to start by reading Section 4 of Chapter 7. Section 4 is an introductory section that explains the process for coverage decisions and appeals and gives definitions of terms such as “appeal.” Then after you have read Section 4, you can go to Section 5.5 in Chapter 7 for a step-by-step explanation of how to file an appeal.

SECTION 4

OTHER SITUATIONS IN WHICH YOU SHOULD SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS AND SEND COPIES TO US

Section 4.1 **In some cases, you should send copies of your receipts to us to help us track your out-of-pocket drug costs**

There are some situations when you should let us know about payments you have made for your drugs. In these cases, you are not asking us for payment. Instead, you are telling us about your payments so that we can calculate your out-of-pocket costs correctly. This may help you to qualify for the Catastrophic Coverage Stage more quickly.

Here are two situations when you should send us copies of receipts to let us know about payments you have made for your drugs:

1. When you buy the drug for a price that is lower than our price

Sometimes when you are in the Coverage Gap Stage, you can buy your drug **at a network pharmacy** for a price that is lower than our price.

- For example, a pharmacy might offer a special price on the drug. Or you may have a

discount card that is outside our benefit that offers a lower price.

- Unless special conditions apply, you must use a network pharmacy in these situations and your drug must be on our Drug List.
- Save your receipt and send a copy to us so that we can have your out-of-pocket expenses count toward qualifying you for the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.
- **Please note:** If you are enrolled in the Basic Medicare Rx Option and in the Coverage Gap Stage, we will not pay for any share of these drug costs. But sending a copy of the receipt allows us to calculate your out-of-pocket costs correctly and may help you qualify for the Catastrophic Coverage Stage more quickly.

2. When you get a drug through a patient assistance program offered by a drug manufacturer

Some members are enrolled in a patient assistance program offered by a drug manufacturer that is outside the plan benefits. If you get any drugs through a program offered by a drug manufacturer, you may pay a copayment to the patient assistance program.

- Save your receipt and send a copy to us so that we can have your out-of-pocket expenses count toward qualifying you for the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.
- **Please note:** Because you are getting your drug through the patient assistance program and not through the plan’s benefits, we will not pay for any share of these drug costs. But sending a copy of the receipt allows us to calculate your out-of-pocket costs correctly and may help you qualify for the Catastrophic Coverage Stage more quickly.

Since you are not asking for payment in the two cases described above, these situations are not considered coverage decisions. Therefore you cannot make an appeal if you disagree with our decision.

CHAPTER 6 YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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SECTION 1

OUR PLAN MUST HONOR YOUR RIGHTS AS A MEMBER OF THE PLAN

Section 1.1 We must provide information in a way that works for you

To get information from us in a way that works for you, please call the HOP Administration Unit (phone numbers are on the front cover).

Our plan has people and free language interpreter services available to answer questions from non-English speaking members. We can also give you information in Braille, in large print, or other alternate formats if you need it. If you are eligible for Medicare because of a disability, we are required to give you information about the plan's benefits that is accessible and appropriate for you. If you have any trouble getting information from our plan because of problems related to language or a disability, please call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and tell them that you want to file a complaint. TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.

Section 1.2 We must treat you with fairness and respect at all times

Our plan must obey laws that protect you from discrimination or unfair treatment. **We do not discriminate** based on a person's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, age, mental or physical disability, health status, claims experience, medical history, genetic information, evidence of insurability, or geographic location within the service area.

If you want more information or have concerns about discrimination or unfair treatment, please call the Department of Health and Human Services' **Office for Civil Rights** at 1-800-368-1019

(TTY 1-800-537-7697) or your local Office for Civil Rights.

If you have a disability and need help with access to care, please call the HOP Administration Unit (phone numbers are on the cover of this booklet). If you have a complaint, such as a problem with wheelchair access, the HOP Administration Unit can help.

Section 1.3 We must ensure that you get timely access to your covered drugs

As a member of our plan, you also have the right to get your prescriptions filled or refilled at any of our network pharmacies without long delays. If you think that you are not getting your Part D drugs within a reasonable amount of time, Chapter 7 of this booklet tells what you can do. (If we have denied coverage for your prescription drugs and you don't agree with our decision, Chapter 7, Section 4 tells what you can do.)

Section 1.4 We must protect the privacy of your personal health information

Federal and state laws protect the privacy of your medical records and personal health information. We protect your personal health information as required by these laws.

- Your "personal health information" includes the personal information you gave us when you enrolled in this plan as well as your medical records and other medical and health information.
- The laws that protect your privacy give you rights related to getting information and controlling how your health information is used. We give you a written notice, called a "Notice of Privacy Practice" that tells about these rights and explains how we protect the privacy of your health information.

How do we protect the privacy of your health information?

- We make sure that unauthorized people don't see or change your records.
- In most situations, if we give your health information to anyone who isn't providing your care or paying for your care, *we are required to get written permission from you first*. Written permission can be given by you or by someone you have given legal power to make decisions for you.
- There are certain exceptions that do not require us to get your written permission first. These exceptions are allowed or required by law.
 - For example, we are required to release health information to government agencies that are checking on quality of care.
 - Because you are a member of our plan through Medicare, we are required to give Medicare your health information including information about your Part D prescription drugs. If Medicare releases your information for research or other uses, this will be done according to Federal statutes and regulations.

You can see the information in your records and know how it has been shared with others

You have the right to look at your medical records held at the plan, and to get a copy of your records. You also have the right to ask us to make additions or corrections to your medical records. If you ask us to do this, we will work with your healthcare provider to decide whether the changes should be made.

You have the right to know how your health information has been shared with others for any purposes that are not routine.

If you have questions or concerns about the privacy of your personal health information, please call the HOP Administration Unit (phone numbers are on the cover of this booklet).

Section 1.5 We must give you information about the plan, its network of pharmacies, and your covered drugs

As a member of our plan, you have the right to get several kinds of information from us. (As explained above in Section 1.1, you have the right to get information from us in a way that works for you. This includes getting the information in languages other than English and in large print or other alternate formats.)

If you want any of the following kinds of information, please call the HOP Administration Unit (phone numbers are on the cover of this booklet):

- **Information about our plan.** This includes, for example, information about the plan's financial condition. It also includes information about the number of appeals made by members and the plan's performance ratings, including how it has been rated by plan members and how it compares to other Medicare prescription drug plans.
- **Information about our network pharmacies**
 - For example, you have the right to get information from us about the pharmacies in our network.
 - For a list of the pharmacies in the plan's network, see the *Pharmacy Directory*.
 - For more detailed information about our pharmacies, you can call Prescription Solutions (phone numbers are on the cover of this booklet) or visit our website at www.HOPbenefits.com.

- **Information about your coverage and rules you must follow in using your coverage**
 - To get the details on your Part D prescription drug coverage, see Chapters 3 and 4 of this booklet plus the plan's *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)*. These chapters, together with the *List of Covered Drugs*, tell you what drugs are covered and explain the rules you must follow and the restrictions to your coverage for certain drugs.
 - If you have questions about the rules or restrictions, please call Prescription Solutions (phone numbers are on the cover of this booklet).
- **Information about why something is not covered and what you can do about it**
 - If a Part D drug is not covered for you, or if your coverage is restricted in some way, you can ask us for a written explanation. You have the right to this explanation even if you received the drug from an out-of-network pharmacy.
 - If you are not happy or if you disagree with a decision we make about what Part D drug is covered for you, you have the right to ask us to change the decision. You can ask us to change the decision by making an appeal. For details on what to do if something is not covered for you in the way you think it should be covered, see Chapter 7 of this booklet. It gives you the details about how to make an appeal if you want us to change our decision. (Chapter 7 also tells about how to make a complaint about quality of care, waiting times, and other concerns.)
 - If you want to ask our plan to pay our share of the cost for a Part D prescription drug, see Chapter 5 of this booklet.

Section 1.6 We must support your right to make decisions about your care

You have the right to give instructions about what is to be done if you are not able to make medical decisions for yourself

Sometimes people become unable to make health care decisions for themselves due to accidents or serious illness. You have the right to say what you want to happen if you are in this situation. This means that, *if you want to*, you can:

- Fill out a written form to give **someone the legal authority to make medical decisions for you** if you ever become unable to make decisions for yourself.
- **Give your doctors written instructions** about how you want them to handle your medical care if you become unable to make decisions for yourself.

The legal documents that you can use to give your directions in advance in these situations are called **“advance directives.”** There are different types of advance directives and different names for them. Documents called **“living will”** and **“power of attorney for health care”** are examples of advance directives.

If you want to use an “advance directive” to give your instructions, here is what to do:

- **Get the form.** If you want to have an advance directive, you can get a form from your lawyer, from a social worker, or from some office supply stores. You can sometimes get advance directive forms from organizations that give people information about Medicare.
- **Fill it out and sign it.** Regardless of where you get this form, keep in mind that it is a legal document. You should consider having a lawyer help you prepare it.

- **Give copies to appropriate people.** You should give a copy of the form to your doctor and to the person you name on the form as the one to make decisions for you if you can't. You may want to give copies to close friends or family members as well. Be sure to keep a copy at home.

If you know ahead of time that you are going to be hospitalized, and you have signed an advance directive, **take a copy with you to the hospital.**

- If you are admitted to the hospital, they will ask you whether you have signed an advance directive form and whether you have it with you.
- If you have not signed an advance directive form, the hospital has forms available and will ask if you want to sign one.

Remember, it is your choice whether you want to fill out an advance directive (including whether you want to sign one if you are in the hospital). According to law, no one can deny you care or discriminate against you based on whether or not you have signed an advance directive.

What if your instructions are not followed?

If you have signed an advance directive, and you believe that a doctor or hospital hasn't followed the instructions in it, call the HOP Administration Unit at the number on the front cover.

Section 1.7 You have the right to make complaints and to ask us to reconsider decisions we have made

If you have any problems or concerns about your covered services or care, Chapter 7 of this booklet tells what you can do. It gives the details about how to deal with all types of problems and complaints.

As explained in Chapter 7, what you need to do to follow up on a problem or concern depends on the situation. You might need to ask our plan to

make a coverage decision for you, make an appeal to us to change a coverage decision, or make a complaint. Whatever you do – ask for a coverage decision, make an appeal, or make a complaint – **we are required to treat you fairly.**

You have the right to get a summary of information about the appeals and complaints that other members have filed against our plan in the past. To get this information, please call the HOP Administration Unit (phone numbers are on the cover of this booklet).

Section 1.8 What can you do if you think you are being treated unfairly or your rights are not being respected?

If it is about discrimination, call the Office for Civil Rights

If you think you have been treated unfairly or your rights have not been respected due to your race, disability, religion, sex, health, ethnicity, creed (beliefs), age, or national origin, you should call the Department of Health and Human Services' **Office for Civil Rights** at 1-800-368-1019 or TTY 1-800-537-7697, or call your local Office for Civil Rights.

Is it about something else?

If you think you have been treated unfairly or your rights have not been respected, *and* it's *not* about discrimination, you can get help dealing with the problem you are having:

- You can **call the HOP Administration Unit** (phone numbers are on the cover of this booklet).
- You can **call the State Health Insurance Assistance Program**. For details about this organization and how to contact it, go to Chapter 2, Section 3.
- Or, **you can call Medicare** at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Section 1.9 How to get more information about your rights

There are several places where you can get more information about your rights:

- You can **call the HOP Administration Unit** (phone numbers are on the cover of this booklet).
- You can **call the State Health Insurance Assistance Program**. For details about this organization and how to contact it, go to Chapter 2, Section 3.
- You can contact **Medicare**.
 - You can visit the Medicare website to read or download the publication “Your Medicare Rights & Protections.” (The publication is available at: <http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/10112.pdf>.)
 - Or, you can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

SECTION 2 YOU HAVE SOME RESPONSIBILITIES AS A MEMBER OF THE PLAN

Section 2.1 What are your responsibilities?

Things you need to do as a member of the plan are listed below. If you have any questions, please call the HOP Administration Unit (phone numbers are on the cover of this booklet). We’re here to help.

- **Get familiar with your covered drugs and the rules you must follow to get these covered drugs.** Use this *Evidence of Coverage* booklet to learn what is covered for you and the rules you need to follow to get your covered drugs.

- Chapters 3 and 4 give the details about your coverage for Part D prescription drugs.
- **If you have any other prescription drug coverage besides our plan, you are required to tell us.** Please call the HOP Administration Unit to let us know.
 - We are required to follow rules set by Medicare to make sure that you are using all of your coverage in combination when you get your covered drugs from our plan. This is called “**coordination of benefits**” because it involves coordinating the drug benefits you get from our plan with any other drug benefits available to you. We’ll help you with it. (For more information about coordination of benefits, go to Chapter 1, Section 7.)
- **Tell your doctor and pharmacist that you are enrolled in our plan.** Show your plan membership card whenever you get your Part D prescription drugs.
- **Help your doctors and other providers help you by giving them information, asking questions, and following through on your care.**
 - To help your doctors and other health providers give you the best care, learn as much as you are able to about your health problems and give them the information they need about you and your health. Follow the treatment plans and instructions that you and your doctors agree upon.
 - Make sure your doctors know all of the drugs you are taking, including over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and supplements.
 - If you have any questions, be sure to ask. Your doctors and other health care providers are supposed to explain things in a way you can understand. If you ask a question and you don’t understand the answer you are given, ask again.

- **Pay what you owe.** As a plan member, you are responsible for these payments:
 - You must pay your plan premiums to continue being a member of our plan.
 - For most of your drugs covered by the plan, you must pay your share of the cost when you get the drug. This will be a copayment (a fixed amount) or coinsurance (a percentage of the total cost). Chapter 4 tells what you must pay for your Part D prescription drugs.
 - If you get any drugs that are not covered by our plan or by other insurance you may have, you must pay the full cost.
 - If you disagree with our decision to deny coverage for a drug, you can make an appeal. Please see Chapter 7 of this booklet for information about how to make an appeal.
 - If you are required to pay a late enrollment penalty, you must pay the penalty to remain a member of the plan.
- **Tell us if you move.** If you are going to move, it's important to tell us right away. Call the HOP Administration Unit (phone numbers are on the front cover of this booklet).
 - **If you move *outside* of our plan service area, you cannot remain a member of our plan.** (Chapter 1 tells about our service area.) We can help you figure out whether you are moving outside our service area. If you are leaving our service area, we can let you know if we have a plan in your new area.
 - **If you move *within* our service area, we still need to know** so we can keep your membership record up to date and know how to contact you.
- **Call the HOP Administration Unit for help if you have questions or concerns.** We also welcome any suggestions you may have for improving our plan.
 - Phone numbers and calling hours for the HOP Administration Unit are on the cover of this booklet.
 - For more information on how to reach us, including our mailing address, please see Chapter 2.

CHAPTER 7 WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM OR COMPLAINT (COVERAGE DECISIONS, APPEALS, COMPLAINTS)

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BACKGROUND

SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

Section 1.1 What to do if you have a problem or concern

This chapter explains two types of formal processes for handling problems:

- For some types of problems, you need to use the **process for coverage decisions and making appeals**.
- For other types of problems you need to use the **process for making complaints**.

Both of these processes have been approved by Medicare. To ensure fairness and prompt handling of your problems, each process has a set of rules, procedures, and deadlines that must be followed by us and by you.

Which one do you use? That depends on the type of problem you are having. The guide in Section 3 will help you identify the right process to use.

Section 1.2 What about the legal terms?

There are technical legal terms for some of the rules, procedures, and types of deadlines explained in this chapter. Many of these terms are unfamiliar to most people and can be hard to understand.

To keep things simple, this chapter explains the legal rules and procedures using more common words in place of certain legal terms. For example, this chapter generally says “making a complaint” rather than “filing a grievance,” “coverage decision” rather than “coverage determination,” and “Independent Review Organization” instead of “Independent Review Entity.” It also uses abbreviations as little as possible.

However, it can be helpful – and sometimes quite important – for you to know the correct legal terms for the situation you are in. Knowing which terms to use will help you communicate more clearly and accurately when you are dealing with your problem and get the right help or information for your situation. To help you know which terms to use, we include legal terms when we give the details for handling specific types of situations.

SECTION 2 YOU CAN GET HELP FROM GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE NOT CONNECTED WITH US

Section 2.1 Where to get more information and personalized assistance

Sometimes it can be confusing to start or follow through the process for dealing with a problem. This can be especially true if you do not feel well or have limited energy. Other times, you may not have the knowledge you need to take the next step.

Get help from an independent government organization

We are always available to help you. But in some situations you may also want help or guidance from someone who is not connected to us. You can always contact your **State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)**. This government program has trained counselors in every state. The program is not connected with our plan or with any insurance company or health plan. The counselors at this program can help you understand which process you should use to handle a problem you are having. They can also answer your questions, give you more information, and offer guidance on what to do.

The services of SHIP counselors are free. You will find phone numbers in Chapter 2, Section 3 of this booklet.

You can also get help and information from Medicare

For more information and help in handling a problem, you can also contact Medicare. Here are two ways to get information directly from Medicare:

- You can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- You can visit the Medicare website (<http://www.medicare.gov>).

SECTION 3 TO DEAL WITH YOUR PROBLEM, WHICH PROCESS SHOULD YOU USE?

Section 3.1 Should you use the process for coverage decisions and appeals? Or should you use the process for making complaints?

If you have a problem or concern, you only need to read the parts of this chapter that apply to your situation. The guide that follows will help.

To figure out which part of this chapter tells what to do for your problem or concern, START HERE

Is your problem or concern about your benefits and coverage?

(This includes problems about whether particular medical care or prescription drugs are covered or not, the way in which they are covered, and problems related to payment for medical care or prescription drugs.)

Yes	No
My problem is about benefits or coverage.	My problem is <i>not</i> about benefits or coverage.
Go on to the next section of this chapter: Section 4: A guide to the basics of coverage decisions and appeals.	Skip ahead to Section 7 at the end of this chapter: How to make a complaint about quality of care, waiting times, customer service or other concerns.

COVERAGE DECISIONS AND APPEALS

SECTION 4 A GUIDE TO THE BASICS OF COVERAGE DECISIONS AND APPEALS

Section 4.1 Asking for coverage decisions and making appeals: the big picture

The process for coverage decisions and making appeals deals with problems related to your benefits and coverage for prescription drugs, including problems related to payment. This is the process you use for issues such as whether a drug is covered or not and the way in which the drug is covered.

Asking for coverage decisions

A coverage decision is a decision we make about your benefits and coverage or about the amount we will pay for your prescription drugs.

We are making a coverage decision for you whenever we decide what is covered for you and how much we pay. In some cases we might decide a drug is not covered or is no longer covered by Medicare for you. If you disagree with this coverage decision, you can make an appeal.

Making an appeal

If we make a coverage decision and you are not satisfied with this decision, you can “appeal” the decision. An appeal is a formal way of asking us to review and change a coverage decision we have made.

When you make an appeal we review the coverage decision we have made to check to see if we were following all of the rules properly. Your appeal is handled by different reviewers than those who made the original unfavorable decision. When we have completed the review we give you our decision.

If we say no to all or part of your Level 1 Appeal, you can go on to a Level 2 Appeal. The Level 2 Appeal is conducted by an independent organization that is not connected to our plan. If you are not satisfied with the decision at the Level 2 Appeal, you may be able to continue through several more levels of appeal.

Section 4.2 How to get help when you are asking for a coverage decision or making an appeal

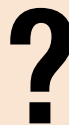
Would you like some help? Here are resources you may wish to use if you decide to ask for any kind of coverage decision or appeal a decision:

- You can call **Prescription Solutions** (phone numbers are on the cover).
- To **get free help from an independent organization** that is not connected with our plan, contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see Section 2 of this chapter).

- **Your doctor or other provider can make a request for you.** Your doctor or other provider can request a coverage decision or a Level 1 Appeal on your behalf. To request any appeal after Level 1, your doctor or other provider must be appointed as your representative.
- **You can ask someone to act on your behalf.** If you want to, you can name another person to act for you as your “representative” to ask for a coverage decision or make an appeal.
 - There may be someone who is already legally authorized to act as your representative under state law.
 - If you want a friend, relative, your doctor or other prescriber, or other person to be your representative, call the HOP Administration Unit and ask for the form to give that person permission to act on your behalf. (An “Appointment of Representative” form is also available on Medicare’s website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/cmsforms/downloads/cms1696.pdf>.) The form gives that person permission to act on your behalf. It must be signed by you and by the person who you would like to act on your behalf. You must give us a copy of the signed form.
- **You also have the right to hire a lawyer to act for you.** You may contact your own lawyer, or get the name of a lawyer from your local bar association or other referral service. There are also groups that will give you free legal services if you qualify. However, **you are not required to hire a lawyer** to ask for any kind of coverage decision or appeal a decision.

SECTION 5

YOUR PART D PRESCRIPTION DRUGS: HOW TO ASK FOR A COVERAGE DECISION OR MAKE AN APPEAL



Have you read Section 4 of this chapter (*A guide to “the basics” of coverage decisions and appeals*)? If not, you may want to read it before you start this section.

Section 5.1 **This section tells you what to do if you have problems getting a Part D drug or you want us to pay you back for a Part D drug**

Your benefits as a member of our plan include coverage for many outpatient prescription drugs. Medicare calls these outpatient prescription drugs “Part D drugs.” You can get these drugs as long as they are included in our plan’s *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)* and the use of the drug is a medically accepted indication. (A “medically accepted indication” is a use of the drug that is either approved by the Food and Drug Administration or supported by certain reference books. See Chapter 3, Section 3 for more information about a medically accepted indication.)

- **This section is about your Part D drugs only.** To keep things simple, we generally say “drug” in the rest of this section, instead of repeating “covered outpatient prescription drug” or “Part D drug” every time.
- For details about what we mean by Part D drugs, the *List of Covered Drugs*, rules and restrictions on coverage, and cost information, see Chapter 3 (*Using our plan’s coverage for your Part D prescription drugs*) and Chapter 4 (*What you pay for your Part D prescription drugs*).

Part D coverage decisions and appeals

As discussed in Section 4 of this chapter, a coverage decision is a decision we make about your benefits and coverage or about the amount we will pay for your drugs.

Legal Terms	An initial coverage decision about your Part D drugs is called a “ coverage determination. ”
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Here are examples of coverage decisions you ask us to make about your Part D drugs:

- You ask us to make an exception, including:
 - Asking us to cover a Part D drug that is not on the plan’s *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)*
 - Asking us to waive a restriction on the plan’s coverage for a drug (such as limits on the amount of the drug you can get)

- Asking to pay a lower cost-sharing amount for a covered non-preferred drug
- You ask us whether a drug is covered for you and whether you satisfy any applicable coverage rules. (For example, when your drug is on the plan’s *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)* but we require you to get approval from us before we will cover it for you.)
 - *Please note:* If your pharmacy tells you that your prescription cannot be filled as written, you will get a written notice explaining how to contact us to ask for a coverage decision.
- You ask us to pay for a prescription drug you already bought. This is a request for a coverage decision about payment.

If you disagree with a coverage decision we have made, you can appeal our decision.

This section tells you both how to ask for coverage decisions and how to request an appeal. Use this guide to help you determine which part has information for your situation:

Which of these situations are you in?

Do you need a drug that isn’t on our Drug List or need us to waive a rule or restriction on a drug we cover?	Do you want us to cover a drug on our Drug List and you believe you meet any plan rules or restrictions (such as getting approval in advance) for the drug you need?	Do you want to ask us to pay you back for a drug you have already received and paid for?	Have we already told you that we will not cover or pay for a drug in the way that you want it to be covered or paid for?
▼	▼	▼	▼
You can ask us to make an exception. (This is a type of coverage decision.) Start with Section 5.2 of this chapter.	You can ask us for a coverage decision. Skip ahead to Section 5.4 of this chapter.	You can ask us to pay you back. (This is a type of coverage decision.) Skip ahead to Section 5.4 of this chapter.	You can make an appeal. (This means you are asking us to reconsider.) Skip ahead to Section 5.5 of this chapter.

Section 5.2 What is an exception?

If a drug is not covered in the way you would like it to be covered, you can ask the plan to make an “exception.” An exception is a type of coverage decision. Similar to other types of coverage decisions, if we turn down your request for an exception, you can appeal our decision.

When you ask for an exception, your doctor or other prescriber will need to explain the medical reasons why you need the exception approved. We will then consider your request. Here are three examples of exceptions that you or your doctor or other prescriber can ask us to make:

1. Covering a Part D drug for you that is not on our plan’s *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)*. (We call it the “Drug List” for short.)

Legal Terms	Asking for coverage of a drug that is not on the Drug List is sometimes called asking for a “ formulary exception. ”
--------------------	---

- If we agree to make an exception and cover a drug that is not on the Drug List, you will need to pay the cost-sharing amount that applies to all of our drugs. You cannot ask for an exception to the copayment or co-insurance amount we require you to pay for the drug.
- You cannot ask for coverage of any “excluded drugs” or other non-Part D drugs which Medicare does not cover. (For more information about excluded drugs, see Chapter 3.)

2. Removing a restriction on our coverage for a covered drug.

There are extra rules or restrictions that apply to certain drugs on the plan’s *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)* (for more information, go to Chapter 3).

Legal Terms	Asking for removal of a restriction on coverage for a drug is sometimes called asking for a “ formulary exception. ”
--------------------	---

- The extra rules and restrictions on coverage for certain drugs include:
 - Getting plan approval in advance before we will agree to cover the drug for you. (This is sometimes called “prior authorization.”)
 - Being required to try a different drug first before we will agree to cover the drug you are asking for. (This is sometimes called “step therapy.”)
 - Quantity limits. For some drugs, there are restrictions on the amount of the drug you can have.
- If we agree to make an exception and waive a restriction for you, you can ask for an exception to the copayment or coinsurance amount we require you to pay for the drug.

3. Changing coverage of a drug to a lower cost-sharing tier.

Every drug on our Drug List is in one of four cost-sharing tiers. In general, the lower the cost-sharing tier number, the less you will pay as your share of the cost of the drug.

Legal Terms	Asking to pay a lower preferred price for a covered non-preferred drug is sometimes called asking for a “ tiering exception. ”
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- If your drug is in Tier 2 or 3 (preferred or non-preferred brand-name drug), you can ask us to cover it at the cost-sharing amount that applies to drugs in a lower tier. This would lower your share of the cost for the drug.
- You cannot ask us to change the cost-sharing tier for any drug in Tier 4 (Specialty Drugs).

Section 5.3 **Important things to know about asking for exceptions**

Your doctor must tell us the medical reasons

Your doctor or other prescriber must give us a statement that explains the medical reasons for requesting an exception. For a faster decision, include this medical information from your doctor or other prescriber when you ask for the exception.

Typically, our Drug List includes more than one drug for treating a particular condition. These different possibilities are called “alternative” drugs. If an alternative drug would be just as effective as the drug you are requesting and would not cause more side effects or other health problems, we will generally *not* approve your request for an exception.

We can say yes or no to your request

- If we approve your request for an exception, our approval usually is valid until the end of the plan year. This is true as long as your doctor continues to prescribe the drug for you and that drug continues to be safe and effective for treating your condition.
- If we say no to your request for an exception, you can ask for a review of our decision by making an appeal. Section 5.5 tells you how to make an appeal if we say no.

The next section tells you how to ask for a coverage decision, including an exception.

Section 5.4 **Step-by-step: How to ask for a coverage decision, including an exception**

Step 1: You ask our plan to make a coverage decision about the drug(s) or payment you need.

If your health requires a quick response, you must ask us to make a “fast decision.” You

cannot ask for a fast decision if you are asking us to pay you back for a drug you already bought.

What to do

- **Request the type of coverage decision you want.** Start by calling, writing, or faxing our plan to make your request. You, your representative, or your doctor (or other prescriber) can do this. For the details, go to Chapter 2, Section 1 and look for the section called, *How to contact us when you are asking for a coverage decision, or making an appeal and/or complaint about your Part D prescription drugs*. Or if you are asking us to pay you back for a drug, go to the section called, *Where to send a request that asks us to pay for our share of the cost of a drug you have received*.
- **You or your doctor or someone else who is acting on your behalf** can ask for a coverage decision. Section 4 of this chapter tells how you can give written permission to someone else to act as your representative. You can also have a lawyer act on your behalf.
- **If you want to ask us to pay you back for a drug**, start by reading Chapter 5 of this booklet, *Asking us to pay our share of the costs for covered drugs*. Chapter 5 describes the situations in which you may need to ask for reimbursement. It also tells how to send us the paperwork that asks us to pay you back for our share of the cost of a drug you have paid for.
- **If you are requesting an exception, provide the “doctor’s statement.”** Your doctor or other prescriber must give us the medical reasons for the drug exception you are requesting. (We call this the “doctor’s statement.”) Your doctor or other prescriber can fax or mail the statement to us. Or your doctor or other prescriber can tell us on the phone and follow up by faxing or mailing a written statement if necessary. See Sections 5.2 and 5.3 for more information about exception requests.

If your health requires it, ask us to give you a “fast decision”

Legal Terms	A “fast decision” is called an “expedited coverage determination.”
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- When we give you our decision, we will use the “standard” deadlines unless we have agreed to use the “fast” deadlines. A standard decision means we will give you an answer within 72 hours after we receive your doctor’s statement. A fast decision means we will answer within 24 hours.
- **To get a fast decision, you must meet two requirements:**
 - You can get a fast decision only if you are asking for a *drug you have not yet received*. (You cannot get a fast decision if you are asking us to pay you back for a drug you already bought.)
 - You can get a fast decision *only* if using the standard deadlines could *cause serious harm to your health or hurt your ability to function*.
- **If your doctor or other prescriber tells us that your health requires a “fast decision,” we will automatically agree to give you a fast decision.**
- If you ask for a fast decision on your own (without your doctor’s or other prescriber’s support), we will decide whether your health requires that we give you a fast decision.
 - If we decide that your medical condition does not meet the requirements for a fast decision, we will send you a letter that says so (and we will use the standard deadlines instead).
 - This letter will tell you that if your doctor or other prescriber asks for the fast decision, we will automatically give a fast decision.

- The letter will also tell how you can file a complaint about our decision to give you a standard decision instead of the fast decision you requested. It tells how to file a “fast” complaint, which means you would get our answer to your complaint within 24 hours. (The process for making a complaint is different from the process for coverage decisions and appeals. For more information about the process for making complaints, see Section 7 of this chapter.)

Step 2: We consider your request and we give you our answer.

Deadlines for a **“fast”** coverage decision

- If we are using the fast deadlines, we must give you our answer **within 24 hours**.
 - Generally, this means within 24 hours after we receive your request. If you are requesting an exception, we will give you our answer within 24 hours after we receive your doctor’s statement supporting your request. We will give you our answer sooner if your health requires us to.
 - If we do not meet this deadline, we are required to send your request on to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent outside organization. Later in this section, we tell about this review organization and explain what happens at Appeal Level 2.
- **If our answer is yes to part or all of what you requested**, we must provide the coverage we have agreed to provide within 24 hours after we receive your request or doctor’s statement supporting your request.
- **If our answer is no to part or all of what you requested**, we will send you a written statement that explains why we said no.

Deadlines for a **“standard”** coverage decision about a drug you have not yet received

- If we are using the standard deadlines, we must give you our answer **within 72 hours**.
 - Generally, this means within 72 hours after we receive your request. If you are requesting an exception, we will give you our answer within 72 hours after we receive your doctor's statement supporting your request. We will give you our answer sooner if your health requires us to.
 - If we do not meet this deadline, we are required to send your request on to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent organization. Later in this section, we tell about this review organization and explain what happens at Appeal Level 2.
- **If our answer is yes to part or all of what you requested**
 - If we approve your request for coverage, we must **provide the coverage** we have agreed to provide **within 72 hours** after we receive your request or doctor's statement supporting your request.

- **If our answer is no to part or all of what you requested**, we will send you a written statement that explains why we said no.

Deadlines for a "standard" coverage decision about payment for a drug you have already bought

- We must give you our answer **within 14 calendar days** after we receive your request.
 - If we do not meet this deadline, we are required to send your request on to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an independent organization. Later in this section, we tell about this review organization and explain what happens at Appeal Level 2.
- **If our answer is yes to part or all of what you requested**, we are also required to make payment to you within 30 calendar days after we receive your request.

- **If our answer is no to part or all of what you requested**, we will send you a written statement that explains why we said no.

Step 3: If we say no to your coverage request, you decide if you want to make an appeal.

- If we say no, you have the right to request an appeal. Requesting an appeal means asking us to reconsider – and possibly change – the decision we made.

Section 5.5 Step-by-step: How to make a Level 1 Appeal (how to ask for a review of a coverage decision made by our plan)

Legal Terms

An appeal to the plan about a Part D drug coverage decision is called a plan **"redetermination."**

Step 1: You contact us and make your Level 1 Appeal. If your health requires a quick response, you must ask for a "fast appeal."

What to do

- **To start your appeal, you, your doctor, or other representative must contact us.**
 - For details on how to reach us by phone, fax or mail for any purpose related to your appeal, go to Chapter 2, Section 1, and look for the section called, *How to contact us when you are asking for a coverage decision, or making an appeal and/or complaint about your Part D prescription drugs.*
- **If you are asking for a standard appeal, make your appeal by submitting a written request.** You may also ask for an appeal by calling us at the phone number shown in Chapter 2, Section 1, *How to contact us when*

you are asking for a coverage decision, or making an appeal and/or complaint about your Part D prescription drugs.

- **If you are asking for a fast appeal, you may make your appeal in writing or you may call us at the phone number shown in Chapter 2, Section 1, How to contact us when you are asking for a coverage decision, or making an appeal and/or complaint about your Part D prescription drugs.**
- **You must make your appeal request within 60 calendar days** from the date on the written notice we sent to tell you our answer to your request for a coverage decision. If you miss this deadline and have a good reason for missing it, we may give you more time to make your appeal. Examples of good cause for missing the deadline may include if you had a serious illness that prevented you from contacting us or if we provided you with incorrect or incomplete information about the deadline for requesting an appeal.
- **You can ask for a copy of the information in your appeal and add more information.**
 - You have the right to ask us for a copy of the information regarding your appeal.
 - If you wish, you and your doctor or other prescriber may give us additional information to support your appeal.

If your health requires it, ask for a “fast appeal”

Legal Terms	A “fast appeal” is also called an “expedited redetermination.”
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- If you are appealing a decision we made about a drug you have not yet received, you and your doctor or other prescriber will need to decide if you need a “fast appeal.”
- The requirements for getting a “fast appeal” are the same as those for getting a “fast decision” in Section 5.4 of this chapter.

Step 2: We consider your appeal and we give you our answer.

- When our plan is reviewing your appeal, we take another careful look at all of the information about your coverage request. We check to see if we were following all the rules when we said no to your request. We may contact you or your doctor or other prescriber to get more information.

Deadlines for a **“fast” appeal**

- If we are using the fast deadlines, we must give you our answer **within 72 hours after we receive your appeal.** We will give you our answer sooner if your health requires it.
 - If we do not give you an answer within 72 hours, we are required to send your request on to Level 2 of the appeals process, where it will be reviewed by an Independent Review Organization. (Later in this section, we tell about this review organization and explain what happens at Level 2 of the appeals process.)
- **If our answer is yes to part or all of what you requested,** we must provide the coverage we have agreed to provide within 72 hours after we receive your appeal.
- **If our answer is no to part or all of what you requested,** we will send you a written statement that explains why we said no and how to appeal our decision.

Deadlines for a **“standard” appeal**

- If we are using the standard deadlines, we must give you our answer **within 7 calendar days** after we receive your appeal. We will give you our decision sooner if you have not received the drug yet and your health condition requires us to do so. If you believe your health requires it, you should ask for a “fast” appeal.
 - If we do not give you a decision within 7 calendar days, we are required to send your request on to Level 2 of the appeals

process, where it will be reviewed by an Independent Review Organization. Later in this section, we tell about this review organization and explain what happens at Level 2 of the appeals process.

- **If our answer is yes to part or all of what you requested**
 - If we approve a request for coverage, we must **provide the coverage** we have agreed to provide as quickly as your health requires, but **no later than 7 calendar days** after we receive your appeal.
 - If we approve a request to pay you back for a drug you already bought, we are required to **send payment to you within 30 calendar days** after we receive your appeal request.
- **If our answer is no to part or all of what you requested**, we will send you a written statement that explains why we said no and how to appeal our decision.

Step 3: If we say no to your appeal, you decide if you want to continue with the appeals process and make *another* appeal.

- If our plan says no to your appeal, you then choose whether to accept this decision or continue by making another appeal.
- If you decide to make another appeal, it means your appeal is going on to Level 2 of the appeals process (see below).

Section 5.6 Step-by-step: How to make a Level 2 Appeal

If our plan says no to your appeal, you then choose whether to accept this decision or continue by making another appeal. If you decide to go on to a Level 2 Appeal, the **Independent Review Organization** reviews the decision our plan made when we said no to your first appeal. This

organization decides whether the decision we made should be changed.

Legal Terms	The formal name for the “Independent Review Organization” is the “Independent Review Entity.” It is sometimes called the “IRE.”
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Step 1: To make a Level 2 Appeal, you must contact the Independent Review Organization and ask for a review of your case.

- If our plan says no to your Level 1 Appeal, the written notice we send you will include **instructions on how to make a Level 2 Appeal** with the Independent Review Organization. These instructions will tell who can make this Level 2 Appeal, what deadlines you must follow, and how to reach the review organization.
- When you make an appeal to the Independent Review Organization, we will send the information we have about your appeal to this organization. This information is called your “case file.” **You have the right to ask us for a copy of your case file.**
- You have a right to give the Independent Review Organization additional information to support your appeal.

Step 2: The Independent Review Organization does a review of your appeal and gives you an answer.

- **The Independent Review Organization is an outside, independent organization that is hired by Medicare.** This organization is not connected with us and it is not a government agency. This organization is a company chosen by Medicare to review our decisions about your Part D benefits with us.

- Reviewers at the Independent Review Organization will take a careful look at all of the information related to your appeal. The organization will tell you its decision in writing and explain the reasons for it.

Deadlines for “fast” appeal at Level 2

- If your health requires it, ask the Independent Review Organization for a “fast appeal.”
- If the review organization agrees to give you a “fast appeal,” the review organization must give you an answer to your Level 2 Appeal **within 72 hours** after it receives your appeal request.
- If the Independent Review Organization says yes to part or all of what you requested,** we must provide the drug coverage that was approved by the review organization **within 24 hours** after we receive the decision from the review organization.

Deadlines for “standard” appeal at Level 2

- If you have a standard appeal at Level 2, the review organization must give you an answer to your Level 2 Appeal **within 7 calendar days** after it receives your appeal.
- If the Independent Review Organization says yes to part or all of what you requested**
 - If the Independent Review Organization approves a request for coverage, we must **provide the drug coverage** that was approved by the review organization **within 72 hours** after we receive the decision from the review organization.
 - If the Independent Review Organization approves a request to pay you back for a drug you already bought, we are required to **send payment to you within 30 calendar days** after we receive the decision from the review organization.

What if the review organization says no to your appeal?

If this organization says no to your appeal, it means the organization agrees with our decision not to approve your request. (This is called “upholding the decision.” It is also called “turning down your appeal.”)

To continue and make another appeal at Level 3, the dollar value of the drug coverage you are requesting must meet a minimum amount. If the dollar value of the coverage you are requesting is too low, you cannot make another appeal and the decision at Level 2 is final. The notice you get from the Independent Review Organization will tell you if the dollar value of the coverage you are requesting is high enough to continue with the appeals process.

Step 3: If the dollar value of the coverage you are requesting meets the requirement, you choose whether you want to take your appeal further.

- There are three additional levels in the appeals process after Level 2 (for a total of five levels of appeal).
- If your Level 2 Appeal is turned down and you meet the requirements to continue with the appeals process, you must decide whether you want to go on to Level 3 and make a third appeal. If you decide to make a third appeal, the details on how to do this are in the written notice you got after your second appeal.
- The Level 3 Appeal is handled by an administrative law judge. Section 6 in this chapter tells more about Levels 3, 4, and 5 of the appeals process.

SECTION 6

TAKING YOUR APPEAL TO LEVEL 3 AND BEYOND

Section 6.1 Levels of Appeal 3, 4, and 5 for Part D Drug Appeals

This section may be appropriate for you if you have made a Level 1 Appeal and a Level 2 Appeal, and both of your appeals have been turned down.

If the dollar value of the drug you have appealed meets certain minimum levels, you may be able to go on to additional levels of appeal. If the dollar value is less than the minimum level, you cannot appeal any further. If the dollar value is high enough, the written response you receive to your Level 2 Appeal will explain who to contact and what to do to ask for a Level 3 Appeal.

For most situations that involve appeals, the last three levels of appeal work in much the same way. Here is who handles the review of your appeal at each of these levels.

Level 3 Appeal	A judge who works for the Federal government will review your appeal and give you an answer. This judge is called an “Administrative Law Judge.”
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- **If the Administrative Law Judge says yes to your appeal, the appeals process is over.** What you asked for in the appeal has been approved. We must **authorize or provide the drug coverage** that was approved by the Administrative Law Judge **within 72 hours (24 hours for expedited appeals) or make payment no later than 30 calendar days** after we receive the decision.
- **If the the Administrative Law Judge says no to your appeal, the appeals process *may or may not* be over.**
 - If you decide to accept this decision that

turns down your appeal, the appeals process is over.

- If you do not want to accept the decision, you can continue to the next level of the review process. If the administrative judge says no to your appeal, the notice you get will tell you what to do next if you choose to continue with your appeal.

Level 4 Appeal	The Medicare Appeals Council will review your appeal and give you an answer. The Medicare Appeals Council works for the Federal government.
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- **If the answer is yes, the appeals process is over.** What you asked for in the appeal has been approved. We must **authorize or provide the drug coverage** that was approved by the Medicare Appeals Council **within 72 hours (24 hours for expedited appeals) or make payment no later than 30 calendar days** after we receive the decision.
- **If the answer is no, the appeals process *may or may not* be over.**
 - If you decide to accept this decision that turns down your appeal, the appeals process is over.
 - If you do not want to accept the decision, you might be able to continue to the next level of the review process. If the Medicare Appeals Council says no to your appeal or denies your request to review the appeal, the notice you get will tell you whether the rules allow you to go on to a Level 5 Appeal. If the rules allow you to go on, the written notice will also tell you who to contact and what to do next if you choose to continue with your appeal.

Level 5 Appeal	A judge at the Federal District Court will review your appeal.
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- This is the last step of the administrative appeals process.

MAKING COMPLAINTS

SECTION 7 HOW TO MAKE A COMPLAINT ABOUT QUALITY OF CARE, WAITING TIMES, CUSTOMER SERVICE, OR OTHER CONCERNS



If your problem is about decisions related to benefits, coverage, or payment, then this section is *not for you*. Instead, you need to use the process for coverage decisions and appeals. Go to Section 4 of this chapter.

Section 7.1 **What kinds of problems are handled by the complaint process?**

This section explains how to use the process for making complaints. The complaint process is used for certain types of problems *only*. This includes problems related to quality of care, waiting times, and the customer service you receive. Here are examples of the kinds of problems handled by the complaint process.

If you have any of these kinds of problems, you can “make a complaint.”

Quality of your medical care

- Are you unhappy with the quality of the care you have received?

Respecting your privacy

- Do you believe that someone did not respect your right to privacy or shared information about you that you feel should be confidential?

Disrespect, poor customer service, or other negative behaviors

- Has someone been rude or disrespectful to you?
- Are you unhappy with how our Members Services has dealt with you?
- Do you feel you are being encouraged to leave our plan?

Waiting times

- Have you been kept waiting too long by pharmacists? Or by Member Services or other staff at our plan?
- Examples include waiting too long on the phone or when getting a prescription.

Cleanliness

- Are you unhappy with the cleanliness or condition of a pharmacy?

Information you get from our plan

- Do you believe we have not given you a notice that we are required to give?
- Do you think written information we have given you is hard to understand?

The next page has more examples of possible reasons for making a complaint.

Possible complaints (continued)**These types of complaints are all related to the *timeliness* of our actions related to coverage decisions and appeals**

The process of asking for a coverage decision and making appeals is explained in Sections 4-6 of this chapter. If you are asking for a decision or making an appeal, you use that process, not the complaint process.

However, if you have already asked us for a coverage decision or made an appeal, and you think that we are not responding quickly enough, you can also make a complaint about our slowness. Here are examples:

- If you have asked us to give you a “fast response” for a coverage decision or appeal, and we have said we will not, you can make a complaint.
- If you believe our plan is not meeting the deadlines for giving you a coverage decision or an answer to an appeal you have made, you can make a complaint.
- When a coverage decision we made is reviewed and our plan is told that we must cover or reimburse you for certain drugs, there are deadlines that apply. If you think we are not meeting these deadlines, you can make a complaint.
- When our plan does not give you a decision on time, we are required to forward your case to the Independent Review Organization. If we do not do that within the required deadline, you can make a complaint.

Section 7.2 The formal name for “making a complaint” is “filing a grievance”**Legal Terms**

- What this section calls a “**complaint**” is also called a “**grievance.**”
- Another term for “**making a complaint**” is “**filing a grievance.**”
- Another way to say “**using the process for complaints**” is “**using the process for filing a grievance.**”

Section 7.3 Step-by-step: Making a complaint**Step 1: Contact us promptly – either by phone or in writing.**

- Usually, calling Prescription Solutions at 1-888-239-1301 is the first step. (TTY/TDD users call 1-800-498-5428.) You can call from 8 am to 5 pm ET, Monday through Friday. If there is anything else you need to do, Prescription Solutions will let you know.

- If you do not wish to call (or you called and were not satisfied), you can put your complaint in writing and send it to us. If you do this, it means that we will use our formal procedure for answering grievances. Within this process, your complaint will be handled by the Part D Appeal & Grievance Department in accordance with CMS guidelines. You may submit your complaint to the Part D Appeal & Grievance Department by mail, phone, or fax. Mail to Part D Appeal & Grievance Department, Mail Stop CA106-0286, 3515 Harbor Boulevard, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 or fax to 1-877-239-4565.

The complaint must be submitted within 60 days of the event or incident. We must address your complaint as quickly as your case requires based on your health status, but no later than 30 days after receiving it. We may extend the timeframe by up to 14 days if you ask for the extension, or if we justify a need for additional information and the delay is in your best interest. If we deny your complaint in whole or in part, our written decision will explain why we denied it, and will tell you about any dispute resolution options you may have.

Exceptions to be made in accordance with CMS guidelines to accommodate extensions and expedited issues. If your grievance involves a refusal to grant an expedited coverage determination or expedited re-determination and you have not yet purchased or received the drug in dispute, the grievance ruling will be communicated to you within 24 hours of receipt.

In certain cases, you have the right to ask for a “fast complaint,” meaning we will answer your complaint within 24 hours.

- **Whether you call or write, you should contact Prescription Solutions right away.** The complaint must be made within 60 days after you had the problem you want to complain about.

- **If you are making a complaint because we denied your request for a “fast response” to a coverage decision or appeal, we will automatically give you a “fast” complaint.** If you have a “fast” complaint, it means we will give you **an answer within 24 hours.**

Legal Terms

What this section calls a “fast complaint” is also called an “expedited grievance.”

Step 2: We look into your complaint and give you our answer.

- **If possible, we will answer you right away.** If you call us with a complaint, we may be able to give you an answer on the same phone call. If your health condition requires us to answer quickly, we will do that.
- **Most complaints are answered in 30 calendar days.** If we need more information and the delay is in your best interest or if you ask for more time, we can take up to 14 more calendar days (44 calendar days total) to answer your complaint.
- **If we do not agree** with some or all of your complaint or don’t take responsibility for the problem you are complaining about, we will let you know. Our response will include our reasons for this answer. We must respond whether we agree with the complaint or not.

Section 7.4 **You can also make complaints about quality of care to the Quality Improvement Organization**

You can make your complaint about the quality of care you received to us by using the step-by-step process outlined above.

When your complaint is about *quality of care*, you also have two extra options:

- **You can make your complaint to the Quality Improvement Organization.** If you prefer, you can make your complaint about the quality of care you received directly to this organization (*without* making the complaint to us).
 - The Quality Improvement Organization is a group of practicing doctors and other health care experts paid by the Federal government to check and improve the care given to Medicare patients.
 - To find the name, address, and phone number of the Quality Improvement Organization for your state, look in Chapter 2, Section 4, of this booklet. If you make a complaint to this organization, we will work with them to resolve your complaint
- **Or you can make your complaint to both at the same time.** If you wish, you can make your complaint about quality of care to us and also to the Quality Improvement Organization.

CHAPTER 8 ENDING YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE PLAN

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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

Section 1.1 This chapter focuses on ending your membership in our plan

Ending your membership in the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option may be **voluntary** (your own choice) or **involuntary** (not your own choice):

- You might leave our plan because you have decided that you *want* to leave.
 - There are only certain times during the year, or certain situations, when you may voluntarily end your membership in the plan. Section 2 tells you when you can end your membership in the plan.
 - The process for voluntarily ending your membership varies depending on what type of new coverage you are choosing. Section 3 tells you how to end your membership in each situation.
- There are also limited situations where you do not choose to leave, but we are required to end your membership. Section 5 tells you about situations when we must end your membership.

If you are leaving our plan, you must continue to get your Part D prescription drugs through our plan until your membership ends.

SECTION 2

WHEN CAN YOU END YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN OUR PLAN?

You may end your membership in our plan only during a certain time of the year, known as the **Option Selection Period**. In certain situations, you may also be eligible to leave the plan at other times of the year.

Section 2.1 Usually, you can end your membership during the Option Selection Period

You can end your membership during the **Option Selection Period**, which runs from early October through November 15 each year. This is the time when you should review your health and drug coverage and make a decision about your coverage for the upcoming year.

Note: CMS conducts a fall open enrollment each year (known as the “Annual Election Period”). This happens from October 15 through December 7 in 2011. **This is not the same as the annual Option Selection Period conducted by HOP.**

- **When is the Option Selection Period?** This happens from early October through November 15.
- **What type of plan can you switch to during the Option Selection Period?** During this time, you can review your health coverage and your prescription drug coverage. You can choose to keep your current coverage or make changes to your coverage for the upcoming year. If you decide to change to a new plan, you can choose any of the following types of plans:
 - Another Medicare prescription drug plan.
 - Original Medicare *without* a separate Medicare prescription drug plan.

If you receive Extra Help from Medicare to pay for your prescription drugs: If you do not enroll in a separate Medicare prescription drug plan, Medicare may enroll you in a drug plan, unless you have opted out of automatic enrollment.

 - A Medicare Advantage plan. A Medicare Advantage plan is a plan offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide all of the Medicare Part A (Hospital) and Part B (Medical) benefits. Some Medicare Advantage plans also include Part D prescription drug coverage.

If you enroll in most Medicare Advantage plans, you will be disenrolled from the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option when your new plan's coverage begins. However, if you choose a Private Fee-For-Service plan without Part D drug coverage, a Medicare Medical Savings Account plan, or a Medicare Cost Plan, you can enroll in that plan and keep the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx for your drug coverage. If you do not want to keep our plan, you can choose to enroll in another Medicare prescription drug plan or to drop Medicare prescription drug coverage.

Note: If you disenroll from a Medicare prescription drug plan and go without creditable prescription drug coverage, you may need to pay a late enrollment penalty if you join a Medicare drug plan later. ("Creditable" coverage means the coverage is expected to pay, on average, as least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage.)

- **When will your membership end?** Your membership will end when your new plan's coverage begins on January 1.

Section 2.2 In certain situations, you can end your membership during a Special Enrollment Period

In certain situations, members of the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option may be eligible to end their membership at other times of the year. This is known as a **Special Enrollment Period**.

- **Who is eligible for a Special Enrollment Period?** If any of the following situations apply to you, you are eligible to end your membership during a Special Enrollment Period. These are just examples. For the full list you can contact the plan, call Medicare, or visit the Medicare website (<http://www.medicare.gov>):
 - If you have moved out of your plan's service area.
 - If you have Medicaid.

- If you are eligible for Extra Help with paying for your Medicare prescriptions.
- If we violate our contract with you.
- If you are getting care in an institution, such as a nursing home or long-term care hospital.
- **When are Special Enrollment Periods?** The enrollment periods vary depending on your situation.
- **What can you do?** To find out if you are eligible for a Special Enrollment Period, please call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users call 1-877-486-2048. If you are eligible to end your membership because of a special situation, you can choose to change both your Medicare health coverage and prescription drug coverage. This means you can choose any of the following types of plans:
 - Another Medicare prescription drug plan.
 - Original Medicare *without* a separate Medicare prescription drug plan.

If you receive Extra Help from Medicare to pay for your prescription drugs: If you switch to Original Medicare and do not enroll in a separate Medicare prescription drug plan, Medicare may enroll you in a drug plan, unless you have opted out of automatic enrollment.

- A Medicare Advantage plan. A Medicare Advantage plan is a plan offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide all of the Medicare Part A (Hospital) and Part B (Medical) benefits. Some Medicare Advantage plans also include Part D prescription drug coverage.

If you enroll in most Medicare Advantage plans, you will automatically be disenrolled from the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option when your new plan's coverage begins. However, if you choose a Private Fee-For-Service plan without Part D drug

coverage, a Medicare Medical Savings Account plan, or a Medicare Cost Plan, you can enroll in that plan and keep the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option for your drug coverage. If you do not want to keep our plan, you can choose to enroll in another Medicare prescription drug plan or to drop Medicare prescription drug coverage.

Note: If you disenroll from a Medicare prescription drug plan and go without creditable prescription drug coverage, you may need to pay a late enrollment penalty if you join a Medicare drug plan later. (“Creditable” coverage means the coverage is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare’s standard prescription drug coverage.)

- **When will your membership end?** Your membership will usually end on the first day of the month after we receive your request to change your plan.

Section 2.3 Where can you get more information about when you can end your membership?

If you have any questions or would like more information on when you can end your membership:

- You can **call the HOP Administration Unit** (phone numbers are on the cover of this booklet).
- You can find the information in the ***Medicare & You 2012*** handbook.
 - Everyone with Medicare receives a copy of *Medicare & You* each fall. Those new to Medicare receive it within a month after first signing up.
 - You can also download a copy from the Medicare website (<http://www.medicare.gov>). Or, you can order a printed copy by calling Medicare at the number below.
- You can contact **Medicare** at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

SECTION 3

HOW DO YOU END YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN OUR PLAN?

Section 3.1 You end your membership by enrolling in another plan

Usually, to end your membership in our plan, you simply enroll in another Medicare plan during one of the enrollment periods (see Section 2 for information about the enrollment periods).

However, there are two situations in which you will need to end your membership in a different way:

- If you want to switch from our plan to Original Medicare *without* a Medicare prescription drug plan, you must ask to be disenrolled from our plan.
- If you join a Private Fee-for-Service plan without prescription drug coverage, a Medicare Medical Savings Account Plan, or a Medicare Cost Plan, enrollment in the new plan will not end your membership in our plan. In this case, you can enroll in that plan and keep the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option for your drug coverage. If you do not want to keep our plan, you can choose to enroll in another Medicare prescription drug plan or ask to be disenrolled from our plan.

If you are in one of these two situations and want to leave our plan, there are two ways you can ask to be disenrolled:

- You can make a request in writing to us. (Contact the HOP Administration Unit if you need more information on how to do this.)
- *–or–* You can contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Note: If you disenroll from Medicare prescription drug coverage and go without creditable prescription drug coverage, you may need to pay a late enrollment penalty if you join a Medicare drug plan later. (“Creditable” coverage means the coverage is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare’s standard prescription drug coverage.) See Chapter 6, Section 10 for more information about the late enrollment penalty.

The table below explains how you should end your membership in our plan.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SWITCH FROM OUR PLAN TO:	THIS IS WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Another Medicare prescription drug plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Enroll in the new Medicare prescription drug plan. You will automatically be disenrolled from the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option when your new plan’s coverage begins.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A Medicare health plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Enroll in the Medicare health plan. With most Medicare health plans, you will automatically be disenrolled from the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option when your new plan’s coverage begins. However, if you choose a Private Fee-For-Service plan without Part D drug coverage, a Medicare Medical Savings Account plan, or a Medicare Cost Plan, you can enroll in that new plan and keep the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option for your drug coverage. If you want to leave our plan, you must <i>either</i> enroll in another Medicare prescription drug plan or ask to be disenrolled. To ask to be disenrolled, you must send us a written request (contact the HOP Administration Unit if you need more information on how to do this) or contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Original Medicare <i>without</i> a separate Medicare prescription drug plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Note: If you disenroll from a Medicare prescription drug plan and go without creditable prescription drug coverage, you may need to pay a late enrollment penalty if you join a Medicare drug plan later. See Chapter 4, Section 10 for more information about the late enrollment penalty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Send us a written request to disenroll. Contact the HOP Administration Unit if you need more information on how to do this (phone numbers are on the back cover of this booklet). ■ You can also contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and ask to be disenrolled. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

SECTION 4

UNTIL YOUR MEMBERSHIP ENDS, YOU MUST KEEP GETTING YOUR DRUGS THROUGH OUR PLAN

Section 4.1 **Until your membership ends, you are still a member of our plan**

If you leave the Basic or Enhanced Medicare Rx Option, it may take time before your membership ends and your new Medicare coverage goes into effect. (See Section 2 for information on when your new coverage begins.) During this time, you must continue to get your prescription drugs through our plan.

- **You should continue to use our network pharmacies to get your prescriptions filled until your membership in our plan ends.** Usually, your prescription drugs are only covered if they are filled at a network pharmacy including through our mail-order pharmacy services.

SECTION 5

WE MUST END YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE PLAN IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS

Section 5.1 **When must we end your membership in the plan?**

We must end your membership in the plan if any of the following happen:

- If you do not stay continuously enrolled in Medicare Part A or Part B (or both).
- If you move out of our service area for more than 12 months.
 - If you move or take a long trip, you need to call the HOP Administration Unit to find out if the place you are moving or traveling to is in our plan's area.
- If you become incarcerated (go to prison).
- If you lie about or withhold information about other insurance you have that provides prescription drug coverage.
- If you intentionally give us incorrect information when you are enrolling in our plan and that information affects your eligibility for our plan.
- If you continuously behave in a way that is disruptive and makes it difficult for us to provide care for you and other members of our plan. We cannot make you leave our plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first.
- If you let someone else use your membership card to get prescription drugs. If we end your membership because of this reason, Medicare may have your case investigated by the Inspector General.
- If you do not pay the plan premium, we will tell you in writing that you have a 60-day grace period during which you may pay the plan premium before we end your membership.

Where can you get more information?

If you have questions or would like more information on when we can end your membership:

- You can call the HOP Administration Unit for more information (phone numbers are on the cover of this booklet).

Section 5.2 We cannot ask you to leave our plan for any reason related to your health

What should you do if this happens?

If you feel that you are being asked to leave our plan because of a health-related reason, you should call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. You may call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Section 5.3 You have the right to make a complaint if we end your membership in our plan

If we end your membership in our plan, we must tell you our reasons in writing for ending your membership. We must also explain how you can make a complaint about our decision to end your membership. You can also look in Chapter 7, Section 7 for information about how to make a complaint.

CHAPTER 9 LEGAL NOTICES

SECTION 1 NOTICE ABOUT GOVERNING LAW

Many laws apply to this *Evidence of Coverage* and some additional provisions may apply because they are required by law. This may affect your rights and responsibilities even if the laws are not included or explained in this document. The principal law that applies to this document is Title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the regulations created under the Social Security Act by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, or CMS. In addition, other Federal laws may apply and, under certain circumstances, the laws of the state you live in.

SECTION 2 NOTICE ABOUT NONDISCRIMINATION

We don't discriminate based on a person's race, disability, religion, sex, health, ethnicity, creed, age, or national origin. All organizations that provide Medicare prescription drug plans, like our plan, must obey Federal laws against discrimination, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act, all other laws that apply to organizations that get Federal funding, and any other laws and rules that apply for any other reason.

CHAPTER 10 DEFINITIONS OF IMPORTANT WORDS

Appeal – An appeal is something you do if you disagree with our decision to deny a request for coverage of prescription drugs or payment for drugs you already received. For example, you may ask for an appeal if we don't pay for a drug you think you should be able to receive. Chapter 7 explains appeals, including the process involved in making an appeal.

Brand Name Drug – A prescription drug that is manufactured and sold by the pharmaceutical company that originally researched and developed the drug. Brand name drugs have the same active-ingredient formula as the generic version of the drug. However, generic drugs are manufactured and sold by other drug manufacturers and are generally not available until after the patent on the brand name drug has expired.

Catastrophic Coverage Stage – The stage in the Part D Drug Benefit where you pay a low copayment or coinsurance for your drugs after you or other qualified parties on your behalf have spent \$4,700 in covered drugs during the covered year.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) – The Federal agency that administers Medicare. Chapter 2 explains how to contact CMS.

Coinsurance – An amount you may be required to pay as your share of the cost for prescription drugs. Coinsurance is usually a percentage (for example, 20%).

Copayment – An amount you may be required to pay as your share of the cost for a prescription drug. A copayment is usually a set amount, rather than a percentage. For example, you might pay \$10 or \$20 for a prescription drug.

Cost Sharing – Cost sharing refers to amounts that a member has to pay when drugs are received. (This is in addition to the plan's monthly premium.) Cost sharing includes any combination

of the following three types of payments: (1) any deductible amount a plan may impose before drugs are covered; (2) any fixed "copayment" amount that a plan requires when a specific drug is received; or (3) any "coinsurance" amount, a percentage of the total amount paid for a drug, that a plan requires when a specific drug is received.

Cost-Sharing Tier – Every drug on the list of covered drugs is in one of four cost-sharing tiers. In general, the higher the cost-sharing tier, the higher your cost for the drug.

Coverage Determination – A decision about whether a drug prescribed for you is covered by the plan and the amount, if any, you are required to pay for the prescription. In general, if you bring your prescription to a pharmacy and the pharmacy tells you the prescription isn't covered under your plan, that isn't a coverage determination. You need to call or write to your plan to ask for a formal decision about the coverage. Coverage determinations are called "coverage decisions" in this booklet. Chapter 7 explains how to ask us for a coverage decision.

Covered Drugs – The term we use to mean all of the prescription drugs covered by our plan.

Creditable Prescription Drug Coverage – Prescription drug coverage (for example, from an employer or union) that is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage. People who have this kind of coverage when they become eligible for Medicare can generally keep that coverage without paying a penalty, if they decide to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage later.

Disenroll or Disenrollment – The process of ending your membership in our plan. Disenrollment may be voluntary (your own choice) or involuntary (not your own choice).

Dispensing Fee – A fee charged each time a covered drug is dispensed to pay for the cost of filling a prescription. The dispensing fee covers costs such as the pharmacist’s time to prepare and package the prescription.

Emergency – A medical emergency is when you, or any other prudent layperson with an average knowledge of health and medicine, believe that you have medical symptoms that require immediate medical attention to prevent loss of life, loss of a limb, or loss of function of a limb. The medical symptoms may be an illness, injury, severe pain, or a medical condition that is quickly getting worse.

Evidence of Coverage (EOC) and Disclosure Information – This document, along with your enrollment form and any other attachments, riders, or other optional coverage selected, which explains your coverage, what we must do, your rights, and what you have to do as a member of our plan.

Exception – A type of coverage determination that, if approved, allows you to get a drug that is not on your plan sponsor’s formulary (a formulary exception), or get a non-preferred drug at the preferred cost-sharing level (a tiering exception). You may also request an exception if your plan sponsor requires you to try another drug before receiving the drug you are requesting, or the plan limits the quantity or dosage of the drug you are requesting (a formulary exception).

Extra Help – A Medicare program to help people with limited income and resources pay Medicare prescription drug program costs, such as premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance.

First Fill Starter Quantity – A restriction that limits a mail-order prescription to a 33 day-day supply (see page 48).

Generic Drug – A prescription drug that is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as having the same active ingredient(s) as the brand name drug. Generally, a “generic” drug works the same as a brand name drug and usually costs less.

Grievance – A type of complaint you make about us or one of our network pharmacies, including a complaint concerning the quality of your care. This type of complaint does not involve coverage or payment disputes.

HOP Administration Unit – A department within our plan responsible for answering your questions about your membership, benefits, grievances, and appeals. See Chapter 2 for information about how to contact the HOP Administration Unit.

Initial Coverage Limit – The maximum limit of coverage under the Initial Coverage Stage.

Initial Coverage Stage – This is the stage before your total drug expenses have reached \$2,930, including amounts you’ve paid and what our plan has paid on your behalf.

Initial Enrollment Period – When you are first eligible for Medicare, the period of time when you can sign up for Medicare Part B. For example, if you’re eligible for Part B when you turn 65, your Initial Enrollment Period is the 7-month period that begins 3 months before the month you turn 65, includes the month you turn 65, and ends 3 months after the month you turn 65.

Late Enrollment Penalty – An amount added to your monthly premium for Medicare drug coverage if you go without creditable coverage (coverage that is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage) for a continuous period of 63 days or more. You pay this higher amount as long as you have a Medicare drug plan. There are some exceptions. For example, if you receive Extra Help from Medicare to pay your prescription drug plan costs, the late enrollment penalty rules do not apply to you. If you receive Extra Help, you do not pay a penalty, even if you go without “creditable” prescription drug coverage.

List of Covered Drugs (Formulary or “Drug List”) – A list of prescription drugs covered by the plan. The drugs on this list are selected by the plan with the help of doctors and pharmacists. The list includes both brand name and generic drugs.

Low Income Subsidy – See “Extra Help.”

Medicaid (or Medical Assistance) – A joint Federal and state program that helps with medical costs for some people with low incomes and limited resources. Medicaid programs vary from state to state, but most health care costs are covered if you qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid. See Chapter 2, Section 6 for information about how to contact Medicaid in your state.

Medically Accepted Indication – A use of a drug that is either approved by the Food and Drug Administration or supported by certain reference books. See Chapter 3, Section 3 for more information about a medically accepted indication.

Medicare – The Federal health insurance program for people 65 years of age or older, some people under age 65 with certain disabilities, and people with End-Stage Renal Disease (generally those with permanent kidney failure who need dialysis or a kidney transplant). People with Medicare can get their Medicare health coverage through Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage Plan.

Medicare Advantage (MA) Plan – Sometimes called Medicare Part C. A plan offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide you with all your Medicare Part A and Part B benefits. A Medicare Advantage Plan can be an HMO, PPO, a Private Fee-for-Service (PFFS) plan, or a Medicare Medical Savings Account (MSA) plan. If you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan, Medicare services are covered through the plan, and are not paid for under Original Medicare. In most cases, Medicare Advantage Plans also offer Medicare Part D (prescription drug coverage). These plans are called **Medicare Advantage Plans with Prescription Drug Coverage**. Everyone who has Medicare Part A and Part B is eligible to join any Medicare health plan that is

offered in their area, except people with End-Stage Renal Disease (unless certain exceptions apply).

Medicare Coverage Gap Discount Program – A program that provides discounts on most covered Part D brand name drugs to Part D enrollees who have reached the Coverage Gap Stage and who are not already receiving “Extra Help.” Discounts are based on agreements between the Federal government and certain drug manufacturers. For this reason, most, but not all, brand name drugs are discounted.

Medicare Health Plan – A Medicare health plan is offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide Part A and Part B benefits to people with Medicare who enroll in the plan. This term includes all Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Cost Plans, Demonstration/Pilot Programs, and Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).

Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (Medicare Part D) – Insurance to help pay for outpatient prescription drugs, vaccines, biologicals, and some supplies not covered by Medicare Part A or Part B.

“Medigap” (Medicare Supplement Insurance) Policy – Medicare supplement insurance sold by private insurance companies to fill “gaps” in Original Medicare. Medigap policies only work with Original Medicare. (A Medicare Advantage Plan is not a Medigap policy.)

Member (Member of our Plan, or “Plan Member”) – A person with Medicare who is eligible to get covered services, who has enrolled in our plan and whose enrollment has been confirmed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Network Pharmacy – A network pharmacy is a pharmacy where members of our plan can get their prescription drug benefits. We call them “network pharmacies” because they contract with our plan. In most cases, your prescriptions are covered only if they are filled at one of our network pharmacies.

Original Medicare (“Traditional Medicare” or “Fee-for-service” Medicare) – Original Medicare is offered by the government, and not a private health plan like Medicare Advantage Plans and prescription drug plans. Under Original Medicare, Medicare services are covered by paying doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers payment amounts established by Congress. You can see any doctor, hospital, or other health care provider that accepts Medicare. You must pay the deductible. Medicare pays its share of the Medicare-approved amount, and you pay your share. Original Medicare has two parts: Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Part B (Medical Insurance) and is available everywhere in the United States.

Out-of-Network Pharmacy – A pharmacy that doesn’t have a contract with our plan to coordinate or provide covered drugs to members of our plan. As explained in this Evidence of Coverage, most drugs you get from out-of-network pharmacies are not covered by our plan unless certain conditions apply.

Out-of-Pocket Costs – See the definition for “cost sharing” above. A member’s cost-sharing requirement to pay for a portion of drugs received is also referred to as the member’s “out-of-pocket” cost requirement.

Part C – see “Medicare Advantage (MA) Plan.”

Part D – The voluntary Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program. (For ease of reference, we will refer to the prescription drug benefit program as Part D.)

Part D Drugs – Drugs that can be covered under Part D. We may or may not offer all Part D drugs. (See your formulary for a specific list of covered drugs.) Certain categories of drugs were specifically excluded by Congress from being covered as Part D drugs.

Premium – The periodic payment to Medicare, an insurance company, or a health care plan for health or prescription drug coverage.

Prior Authorization – Approval in advance to get certain drugs that may or may not be on our formulary. Some drugs are covered only if your doctor or other network provider gets “prior authorization” from us. Covered drugs that need prior authorization are marked in the formulary.

Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) – A group of practicing doctors and other health care experts paid by the Federal government to check and improve the care given to Medicare patients. See Chapter 2, Section 4 for information about how to contact the QIO for your state.

Quantity Limits – A management tool that is designed to limit the use of selected drugs for quality, safety, or utilization reasons. Limits may be on the amount of the drug that we cover per prescription or for a defined period of time.

Service Area – A geographic area where a prescription drug plan accepts members if it limits membership based on where people live. The plan may disenroll you if you move out of the plan’s service area.

Special Enrollment Period – A set time when members can change their health or drugs plans or return to Original Medicare. Situations in which you may be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period include: if you move outside the service area, if you are getting “Extra Help” with your prescription drug costs, if you move into a nursing home, or if we violate our contract with you.

Step Therapy – A utilization tool that requires you to first try another drug to treat your medical condition before we will cover the drug your physician may have initially prescribed.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) – A monthly benefit paid by the Social Security Administration to people with limited income and resources who are disabled, blind, or age 65 and older. SSI benefits are not the same as Social Security benefits.

HOP

HEALTH OPTIONS PROGRAM



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