

## **Important Notice from the AFL HOTEL & RESTAURANT WORKERS HEALTH & WELFARE TRUST About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare**

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with the AFL Hotel & Restaurant Workers Health and Welfare Trust Fund and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether or not you want to join a Medicare drug plan. If you are considering joining, you should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered at what cost, with the coverage and costs of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.

There are two important things you need to know about your current coverage and Medicare's prescription drug coverage:

1. Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or join a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO) that offers prescription drug coverage. All Medicare drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.
2. The AFL Hotel & Restaurant Workers Health and Welfare Trust Fund has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the AFL Hotel & Restaurant Workers Health and Welfare Trust Fund is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage. Because your existing coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.

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### **When Can You Join A Medicare Drug Plan?**

If you are Medicare-eligible, you can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year during Medicare's annual election period (from **October 15th to December 7th**).

However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan.

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

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your current AFL Hotel & Restaurant Workers Health and Welfare Trust Fund coverage will be affected. Your existing coverage is as good as or better than the standard Medicare prescription drug (Part D) coverage, therefore you will not need to enroll in the Medicare Part D plan at this time. However if in the future you enroll in Medicare Part D coverage, your current coverage will be deemed creditable and you will not be subject to a penalty.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current AFL Hotel & Restaurant Workers Health and Welfare Trust Fund coverage please contact your Trust Fund Office immediately at (808) 523-0199 or for neighbor islands call toll free at (866) 772-8989.

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

You should also know that if you drop or lose your current coverage with the AFL Hotel & Restaurant Workers Health and Welfare Trust Fund and don't join a Medicare drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan later.

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the Medicare base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without creditable coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

## **For More Information About This Notice Or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage...**

For further information contact the Trust Fund office at (808) 523-0199, or for neighbor islands call toll free at (866) 772-8989. **NOTE: YOU WILL RECEIVE THIS NOTICE EACH YEAR.** You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this coverage through the AFL Hotel & Restaurant Workers Health and Welfare Trust Fund changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

## **For More Information About Your Options Under Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage...**

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is in the "Medicare & You" handbook. You'll get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare drug plans.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

- Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of your copy of the “Medicare & You” handbook for their telephone number) for personalized help
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

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

As in all cases, AFL Hotel & Restaurant Workers Health and Welfare Trust Fund reserves the right to modify benefits at any time, in accordance with applicable law. This document (dated 10/2023) is intended to serve as your Medicare Notice of Creditable Coverage, as required by law.

#### *Disclosure of Grandfathered Status*

*The Trust believes its group health plans are “grandfathered health plans” under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (the Affordable Care Act). As permitted by the Affordable Care Act, a grandfathered health plan can preserve certain basic health coverage that was already in effect when that law was enacted. Being a grandfathered health plan means that your plan may not include certain consumer protections of the Affordable Care Act that apply to other plans, for example, the requirement for the provision of preventive health services without any cost sharing. However, grandfathered health plans must comply with certain other consumer protections in the Affordable Care Act, for example, the elimination of lifetime limits on benefits.*

*Questions regarding which protections apply and which protections do not apply to a grandfathered health plan and what might cause a plan to change from grandfathered health plan status can be directed to the plan administrator, Benefit & Risk Management Services, Inc., at 560 North Nimitz Highway, Suite 209, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-5315 or 523-0199. You may also contact the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor at 1-866-444-3272 or [www.dol.gov/ebsa/healthreform](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/healthreform). This website has a table summarizing which protections do and do not apply to grandfathered health plans.*