

## **Important Notice About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare**

**This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage under Johns Hopkins Health System medical plans and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This notice applies to all the group medical plans (a "Medical Plan") maintained by the following Health System members:**

- **Johns Hopkins Health System Corporation**
- **Johns Hopkins Hospital**
- **Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center**
- **Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center**
- **Suburban Hospital**
- **Sibley Memorial Hospital**
- **All Children's Health System Inc.**

**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 Medical Plan 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 Medical Plan coverage and Medicare's prescription drug coverage:**

- 1. Medicare prescription drug coverage is available to everyone with Medicare. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (sometimes called Medicare Part D), or join a Medicare Advantage Plan (sometimes called Medicare Part C) 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. We have determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Johns Hopkins Health System Medical Plans 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 Medical Plan coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep your coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.**

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

**You can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15<sup>th</sup> to December 7<sup>th</sup>.**

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

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

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your current Medical Plan coverage will not be affected, so long as you continue to elect and pay for Medical Plan coverage. Your Medical Plan would continue to provide you with prescription drug benefits just like it did before you joined a Medicare drug plan.

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Medical Plan coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will not be able to get your Medical Plan coverage back until the next annual open enrollment period (assuming you are still an eligible employee at that time).

## **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 Medical Plan coverage and don't join a Medicare drug plan within 63 days after your coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan later.

If you go 63 days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, your monthly Medicare drug plan 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 creditable prescription drug 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 a Medicare prescription drug plan.

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

For more information, contact the HR Support Center at 443-997-5400. **NOTE:** You'll get this notice each year. 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 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).**