



LOYOLA  
UNIVERSITY  
CHICAGO

## **Loyola University Chicago Notice of Creditable Prescription Drug Coverage - Medicare Part D**

### **Important Notice from Loyola University Chicago About Your Retiree Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare**

Please read this *Notice* carefully and keep it where you can find it. This *Notice* has information about your Medicare RX drug coverage through the Loyola University Chicago's prescription drug program. The Medicare RX drug plan is administered by BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois, it is available for people with Medicare. It also explains the options you have under Medicare prescription drug coverage and can help you decide whether or not you want to enroll. At the end of this notice is information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage.

- 1. Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare through Medicare prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage Plans that offer prescription drug coverage. All Medicare prescription drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.**
- 2. Loyola University Chicago has determined that the Blue Medicare Rx Plan offered by BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay and is considered Creditable Coverage.**

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**Because your existing coverage is on average at least as good as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay extra if you later decide to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage.**

Individual's can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan when they first become eligible for Medicare and each year from November 15<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Beneficiary's leaving employer/union coverage may be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period to sign up for a Medicare prescription drug plan.

You should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered, with the coverage and cost of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area.

**If you do decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and drop your Loyola University Chicago prescription drug coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will not be allowed to have both Loyola University Chicago and another Medicare part D prescription drug coverage..**

**Please contact us for more information about what happens to your coverage if you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan.**

You should also know that if you drop or lose your coverage with Loyola University Chicago and don't enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage after your Loyola University Chicago coverage ends, you may pay more (a penalty) to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage later.

If you go 63 days or longer without prescription drug coverage that's at least as good as Medicare's prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium will go up at least 1% per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without coverage, your premium will always be at least 19% higher than what many other people pay. You'll have to pay this higher premium as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following November to enroll.

### **Additional Information**

#### **Blue Medicare Rx**

You may contact our office (312) 915-7514 for further information or call Blue Medicare Rx customer service at (877) 383-3833. NOTE: You will receive this notice annually and at other times in the future such as before the next period you can enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage, and if your coverage through BlueCross BlueShield changes. You also may request a copy.

#### **Medicare**

For 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 prescription drug plans. For more information about Medicare prescription drug plans:

- Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see your copy of the Medicare & You handbook for their telephone number) for personalized help,
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

For people with limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. Information about this extra help is available

from the Social Security Administration (SSA) online at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), or you call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

**Remember: Keep this notice. If you enroll in one of the new plans approved by Medicare which offer prescription drug coverage, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show that you are not required to pay a higher premium amount.**

**November 10, 2006  
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