

Important Notice from ACCEND SERVICES 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 **ACCEND SERVICES** 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 three 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. **ACCEND SERVICES** has determined that the prescription drug coverage **COVERED UNDER THE HSA 2 PLAN** offered by **ACCEND SERVICES** is, on average for all participants, expected NOT to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays. Therefore, your coverage is considered Non-Creditable Coverage. This is important because, most likely, you will get more help with your drug costs if you join a Medicare drug plan, than if you only have prescription drug coverage from **ACCEND SERVICES**. This also is important because it may mean that you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you do not join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible.

3. You can keep your current coverage from **ACCEND SERVICES**. However, because your coverage is non-creditable, you have decisions to make about Medicare prescription drug coverage that may affect how much you pay for that coverage, depending on if and when you join a drug plan. When you make your decision, you should compare your current coverage, including what drugs are covered, with the coverage and cost of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. Read this notice carefully – it explains your options.

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 15th to December 7th.

However, if you decide to drop your current coverage with **ACCEND SERVICES**, since it is employer sponsored group coverage, you will be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan; however you also may pay a higher premium (a penalty) because you did not have creditable coverage under **ACCEND SERVICES**.

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 **ACCEND SERVICES** coverage may be affected.

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current **ACCEND SERVICES** coverage, be aware that you and your dependents “will not” be able to get this coverage back.

When Will You Pay a Higher Premium (Penalty) to Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

Since the coverage under **ACCEND SERVICES**, is not creditable, depending on how long you go without creditable prescription drug coverage you may pay a penalty to join a Medicare drug plan. Starting with the end of the last month that you were first eligible to join Medicare drug plan but didn't join, if you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up by a least 1% of the Medicare base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that 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 coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

You should also know that if you drop or lose your current coverage with **ACCEND SERVICES** 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.

For More Information about This Notice or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage...

Contact **ACCEND SERVICES** for further information or call HealthEZ. NOTE: You'll get 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 **ACCEND SERVICES** 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 you 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 Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this help, visit Social Security on the web at 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).