



## Quick Facts about Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs If You Qualify for Extra Help

You've applied for extra help with Medicare prescription drug costs and received a letter from the Social Security Administration (SSA) or your state telling you that you qualify.

### What should I do now?

Join a Medicare drug plan to get coverage. This is important because you will have continuous drug coverage and will pay only a small amount for your prescriptions. You will get help paying for your Medicare drug plan's monthly premium, and for some of the costs you would normally pay for your prescriptions.

### How will I know which Medicare drug plan is best for me?

Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for a list of prescription drug plans with no premium or reduced premiums in your area. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. You can also get information about other drug coverage options, and help comparing plans and joining a plan that works for you.

When comparing these plans, find out which plans cover the prescriptions you take and what pharmacies you can use to fill your prescriptions. The sooner you join a Medicare prescription drug plan, the sooner you will get coverage.

If you have, or are eligible for other types of prescription coverage, read all the materials you get from your insurer or plan provider. You may not need to join a Medicare drug plan. Your current coverage may be as good as or better than Medicare prescription drug coverage and the extra help you qualify for. **You may need to decline this enrollment from Medicare by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to keep your current coverage. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.**



## How do I join a Medicare drug plan?

You may be able to join a Medicare drug plan in the following ways:

- **By paper application.** Contact the company offering the drug plan you choose and ask for an application. Once you fill out the application, mail or fax it back to the company.
- **On the plan's website.** Visit the drug plan company's website. You may be able to join online.
- **On Medicare's website.** You will also be able to join a drug plan at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web using Medicare's online enrollment center. Drug plan participation in Medicare's enrollment center is voluntary, so not all plans will offer this option.
- **Over the telephone.** You may be able to join by calling the plan you want or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), but Medicare drug plans aren't allowed to call you and enroll you in a plan.

You will have to provide the number on your Medicare card when you join.

**If you qualify for extra help and don't join a plan, Medicare will enroll you in one to make sure that you have coverage. Medicare will send you a letter letting you know the plan they will enroll you in if you don't join and when your coverage will begin. If you don't want Medicare drug coverage, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) and tell us you don't want to enroll. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.**

If the plan Medicare chooses doesn't meet your needs, you can switch plans at least once before December 31, 2006. Generally, your next chance to switch is November 15—December 31 of each year.

## How can I learn more?

If you have questions about Medicare prescription drug coverage or want help joining a Medicare drug plan, do the following:

- Look at the "Medicare & You" handbook, visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web, or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for detailed Medicare drug plan information. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for free personalized counseling (check the back cover of your "Medicare & You" handbook for the telephone number in your state).
- Attend Medicare-related events in your community. Look for information about these events in your local newspaper or listen for information on the radio.