

Important Notice from the Health Options for Public Entities (HOPE) Joint Self-Insurance Risk Pool Association About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare Part D Prescription Coverage

- 1. Medicare prescription drug coverage is available to everyone with Medicare.**
- 2. It has been determined that prescription drug coverage under the Health Options for Public Entities (HOPE) Trust Healthcare Plan ("Plan"), on average for all Plan participants, is expected to pay out at least as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay and is considered Creditable Coverage.**
- 3. Read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it because it explains the options you have under Medicare and can help you decide if you want to enroll.**

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. Individuals can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan when they first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15th thru December 7th. Individuals leaving Plan coverage may be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period to sign up for a Medicare prescription drug plan.

If you drop your coverage with our Plan and enroll in a Medicare prescription plan, you may not be able to get this coverage back later. You should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered, with the cost and coverage of Medicare prescription plans available in your area.

If you choose to enroll in Medicare Part D, you will still be eligible to receive current health care benefits. If you drop or lose coverage with your current Plan and do not enroll in Medicare Part D after your coverage ends, you may be required to pay more to enroll in Medicare Part D at a later date. If you go 63 days or longer without prescription drug coverage that is at least as good as Medicare Part D, you will pay a premium surcharge of 1% per month for the months you did not have such coverage (example, 19% for 19 months), and you will have to pay the higher premium for as long as you have Part D. You may have to wait until the following October to enroll.

Medicare enrollees will receive by mail from Medicare the "Medicare & You" handbook each year. Medicare prescription plan vendors may also be contacting you. Other information sources include your State Health Insurance Assistance program, www.medicare.gov, phone Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or 1-877-486-2048 for TTY users. For people with limited income and resources, extra help is available to pay for Medicare Part D through the Social Security Administration which can be visited online at www.socialsecurity.gov, phoned at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Keep this notice. If you enroll in one of the new Medicare prescription plans, you may need to provide a copy of this notice to the Medicare plan in order to avoid paying the higher premium penalty for late enrollment.