Important Notice from Saint Joseph’s University About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

Dear Employee and your Medicare eligible dependents:
If you and/or your covered dependents are not Medicare eligible, this document is for information purposes only.

However, if any of your covered benefit eligible dependents are Medicare eligible, please read this information carefully so that you and your dependents can make an informed decision regarding their prescription drugs.

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it.

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage 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 two 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. It has been determined that the prescription drug coverage through Saint Joseph’s University is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage. 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.

When can you join a Medicare Drug Plan?
Individuals can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan when they first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15th through December 7th.

However, if you lose creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will 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 coverage will be affected.
If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current prescription drug coverage, be aware that you and your dependents may not be able to get this coverage back.

**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 coverage 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.

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription coverage, your monthly 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 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 may 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 October to enroll.

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

- Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- 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.

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 can call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

For more information about this notice or your current prescription drug coverage contact:

Name of Entity/Sender: Saint Joseph’s University
Contact--Position/Office: Chris Brutsche, Director of Compensation and Benefits
Address: 5600 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131
Phone Number: 610-660-3390

**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 this coverage through Saint Joseph’s University changes. You also may request a copy.

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**Remember:** Keep this Creditable Coverage notice. If you decide to enroll in 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 not required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).