

Important Notice from the PSC CUNY Welfare Fund About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

Notice of Creditable Coverage November, 2005

Please read this carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with the PSC CUNY Welfare Fund (the Fund) and new prescription drug coverage available January 1, 2006 for people with Medicare. It also tells you where to find more information to help you make decisions about your prescription drug coverage.

1. Starting January 1, 2006, new Medicare prescription drug coverage will be available to everyone with Medicare. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with Medicare prescription drug plans (PDP's) which will provide (at least) a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans might also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.
2. Actuarial analysis by our Fund's benefit consultants, the Segal Company, has determined that the standard prescription drug coverage through Medco that is offered by the Fund is - on average for all plan participants - expected to pay out at least as much as the standard Medicare coverage will pay.
3. People with Medicare can enroll in a Medicare PDP from November 15, 2005 through May 15, 2006.
4. Because your Fund coverage is on average at least as good as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage, you can keep your current coverage and not pay a surcharge if you decide to enroll in Medicare coverage at a later date.
5. If you do decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and drop your Fund prescription drug coverage, you may not be able to get this coverage back. Your eligibility for other Fund benefits will not be affected.
6. 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.

You should have received information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage from CMS in October entitled "Medicare & You 2006". You may also be contacted directly by one or more Medicare PDP's.

You can get more information about Medicare prescription drug plans from these places:

- Visit www.medicare.gov for personalized help,
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Persons with limited financial resources may get extra help paying for a Medicare prescription drug plan. Information is available from the Social Security Administration (SSA). Contact them online at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). If you enroll in one of the new plans approved by Medicare which offer prescription drug coverage after May 15, 2006, but were eligible to do so earlier, you may need to give a copy of this notice when you join to show that you are not required to pay a higher premium amount.

This information is being provided to you in accordance with Medicare regulations by

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