



ArgusAlert!

Highlights

Reminder & Update:

Annual Medicare Part D Notices Due Annually – by November 15th!

Model Notices were revised for use after January 1, 2009.

Also remember, group health plans MUST notify CMS of the status of your prescription plan within 60 days of the beginning of each plan year.

Put a reminder on your calendar and follow the link:

https://www.cms.hhs.gov/CreditableCoverage/45_CCDisclosureForm.asp

COMPLIANCE REMINDER: MEDICARE PART D NOTICES

Annual Compliance Deadline

Each year by November 15th, group health plans that offer prescription drug coverage must provide a notice to all individuals who are eligible for Medicare Part D prescription drug benefits, which would include dependents or employees who are eligible for Medicare by reason of age, disability or end-stage renal disease.

Because it is difficult to accurately identify all individuals who are eligible for Medicare Part D prescription drug benefits, many employers choose to provide the notice to ALL plan participants and beneficiaries to ensure full compliance with the disclosure requirement.

Plans may consider including the notice with their plan's open enrollment materials if this information is provided before November 15.

For any notice of creditable or non-creditable coverage provided after January 1, 2009, plan sponsors should utilize the **updated notices** available at the following website:

https://www.cms.hhs.gov/CreditableCoverage/08_CCAfterJanuary1.asp#TopOfPage

If you have not received a notice from your TPA or Insurance Company letting you know if your prescription plan is creditable, please contact your Argus Account Manager.

Why We Do These Employee Notices

The Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) imposes a late enrollment penalty on individuals who have a gap in Creditable Coverage for a period of 63 days or longer following their initial enrollment period for the Medicare prescription drug benefit. MMA mandates that certain entities offering prescription drug coverage, including employer and union group health plan sponsors, disclose to all Medicare eligible individuals with prescription drug coverage under the plan whether such coverage is "creditable." This information is essential to an individual's decision whether to enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan.

Group Health Plans must also notify CMS of the status of your prescription plan within 60 days of the beginning of each plan year. Please put a reminder on your calendar and go to

https://www.cms.hhs.gov/CreditableCoverage/45_CCDisclosureForm.asp to complete the disclosure form.

It is very important to review your responsibility pertaining to Medicare Part D. This Alert is only a summary of the requirements. Please visit the CMS website, <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/creditablecoverage/> or let any member of your Argus team know if you have any questions.

Argus Alerts are carefully written to provide accurate general information in regard to the subject matter covered. However, this article is distributed with the understanding that it will not be considered to be legal advice, and the information contained should not be applied to specific circumstances in the absence of assistance of legal counsel.

Source: The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services



For more information please call 404-846-8883.

10.20.2009