

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM PETSMART ABOUT YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE AND MEDICARE**

*This is a federally required notice for all individuals who are eligible for Medicare Part D. If you are not currently eligible for Medicare, you may disregard this notice.*

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with PetSmart 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, within 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:

- Medicare prescription drug coverage first 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 prescription 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.
- PetSmart has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered under the PetSmart SmartChoices Benefits Plan is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage (i.e., coverage that is at least as good as Medicare prescription drug coverage). Because your existing coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join Medicare.

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### **When Can You Join a Medicare Drug Plan?**

You can join a Medicare prescription drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15th through December 7th. However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will also 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 join a Medicare drug plan, you can either keep your existing PetSmart coverage or drop such coverage. Note, however, that prescription drug coverage under the PetSmart SmartChoices Benefits Plan is available only as part of your medical coverage – that is, if you elect medical coverage, you automatically receive prescription drug coverage, and if you don't elect medical coverage, you cannot separately elect prescription drug coverage. Accordingly, if you decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your PetSmart prescription drug coverage, you will have to drop both the prescription drug coverage and the broader medical coverage of which that prescription drug coverage is a part. At that time, you will no longer be eligible for any medical or other benefits (including prescription drug benefits) under the PetSmart SmartChoices Benefits Plan, and you and your dependents may not be able to get any of this coverage back if you wish to do so at a later date.

If you decide to continue your prescription drug coverage under the PetSmart SmartChoices Benefits Plan and simultaneously join a Medicare drug plan, your coverage under the Medicare drug plan will be coordinated with

your prescription drug coverage under the PetSmart SmartChoices Benefits Plan. Note, however, that you will likely have to pay the cost of both coverages.

Before doing anything, 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. Please contact us for more information about what happens to your existing coverage if you join a Medicare drug plan.

### **When Will You Have to Pay a Higher Premium (Penalty) To Join a Medicare Drug Plan?**

If you drop or lose your current coverage with PetSmart and don't join a Medicare drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may have to pay a higher premium (i.e., a penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan later. In particular, if you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up 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 19 months without creditable coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

### **For More Information About This Notice or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage**

Contact the PetSmart Benefits Team at 1-866-263-8411 or email us at [benefits@petsmart.com](mailto:benefits@petsmart.com). NOTE: You will receive this notice annually and also before the next period during which you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this coverage through PetSmart changes. You also may request a copy.

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

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

For people with limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this extra help, visit the Social Security Administration on the web at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

**Remember: Keep this Creditable Coverage notice. If you decide to join one of the Medicare drug plans, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show that whether or not you have maintained creditable coverage and, therefore, whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).**

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