

Important Notice from Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS) About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with TCAPS and prescription drug coverage with Medicare. It also tells you where to find more information to help you make decisions about your prescription drug coverage and Medicare.

- 1. Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare through Medicare prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage Plans that offer 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.**
 - 2. TCAPS has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by our plans are, on average for all plan participants, except the Administrator's high deductible health plan, expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay.**
 - 3. Read this notice carefully – it explains the options you have under Medicare prescription drug coverage and can help you decide whether or not you want to enroll.**
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You may have heard about Medicare's new prescription drug coverage, and wondered how it would affect you. TCAPS has determined that your prescription drug coverage with TCAPS is, on average for all plan participants, except the Administrator's high deductible health plan, expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay.

Since January 1, 2006, prescription drug coverage has been available to everyone with Medicare through Medicare prescription drug plans. All Medicare prescription drug plans will provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans might also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.

Because your existing coverage is on average at least as good as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage, except the Administrator's high deductible health plan, you can keep this coverage and not pay a penalty if you later decide to enroll in Medicare D coverage.

People with Medicare can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan from November 15th through December 31st. However, if you have prescription drug coverage with TCAPS that, on average, is as good as Medicare coverage, except the Administrators High Deductible Health Plan, you can choose to join a Medicare prescription drug plan later. Each year after that, you will have the opportunity to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan between November 15th through December 31st.

If you decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and drop your TCAPS prescription drug coverage, be aware that you may not be able to get this coverage back.

If you drop your coverage with TCAPS and enroll in a Medicare prescription drug 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 coverage and cost of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. For more information on local Medicare prescription plans, contact any of the following:

Priority Health Medicare 1-888-389-6676
Blue Cross Blue Shield 1-800-972-9797

or visit

<http://www.medicare.gov/medicarerereform/mapdpdocs/PDPLandscapemi.pdf>

If you drop or lose your coverage with TCAPS and do not enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage after your TCAPS coverage ends, you may pay more to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage later. If after May 15, 2006, you go 63 days or longer without prescription drug coverage that is at least as good as Medicare's prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium will go up at least 1% per month for every month after May 15, 2006 that you did not have coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without coverage, your premium will always be at least 19% higher than what most other people pay. You will have to pay this higher premium as long as you have Medicare coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until next November to enroll.

Contact Shawn Stowe for further information at 231 933-1720. NOTE: You may receive this notice at other times in the future such as before the next period you can enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage, and if this coverage changes. You also may request a copy at any time.

For more information about your options under Medicare prescription drug coverage...

More detailed information about Medicare plans is available in the "Medicare & You 2009" handbook. If you are eligible, you'll get a copy of the handbook in the mail from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare prescription drug plans. 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 1-800-803-7174
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

People with limited income should call 1-800-722-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) for possible premium assistance.

Remember: Keep this notice. If you enroll in one of the new plans approved by Medicare that offer prescription drug coverage, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show that you are not required to pay a higher premium amount.

Date:	November 3, 2009
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