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**Plumbers & Steamfitters Local #434 Health & Welfare Fund**

*Notice of Creditable Coverage  
For Distribution Prior to October 15, 2021*

*Prepared by  
Segal Consulting  
October 2021*

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## **Notice of Prescription Drug Creditable Coverage Plumbers & Steamfitters Local #434 Health & Welfare Fund**

### **Important Information About Your Prescription Drug Benefits & Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage**

This Notice has information about:

- The availability of Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (Part D).
- How the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local #434 Health & Welfare Fund's existing prescription drug benefits are, on average, at least as good as standard Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage.
- What your choices are and what happens to your coverage under the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local #434 Health & Welfare Fund if you elect Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage.
- Where to find more information to help you make decisions about your prescription drug coverage.

The Plumbers & Steamfitters Local #434 Health & Welfare Fund will continue to provide prescription drug coverage to Medicare eligible individuals for 2022. The prescription drug coverage provided by the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local #434 Health & Welfare Fund is creditable coverage. You do **not** need to join a Medicare prescription drug plan since you have coverage available through the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local #434 Health & Welfare Fund. You can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (penalty) if you later join a Medicare drug plan.

Read this Notice carefully as it explains the options you have under Medicare's Prescription Drug Coverage. Please keep this Notice in a safe place where you can find it.

### **Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage**

Medicare Part D is available 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 offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.

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

You can join a Medicare drug plan when you 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. In addition, if you lose or decide to leave employer/union sponsored coverage, you will be eligible to join a Medicare drug plan at that time using an Employer Group Special Enrollment Period.

### **Existing Coverage as Good as Standard Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage**

The Plumbers & Steamfitters Local #434 Health & Welfare Fund's existing prescription drug benefits are, on average, "Creditable Coverage," which means the Fund is expected to pay as much in claims for all participants (or more in some cases) as standard Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage pays.

Because your current prescription drug benefits with the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local #434 Health & Welfare Fund, on average, are as good as Medicare standard coverage, you can stay covered under the Plan and join a Medicare drug plan later and not be required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).

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**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 whether or not you have maintained creditable coverage. This Notice verifies that you have Creditable Coverage and that you are not required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).

## **Your Choices and the Consequences**

If you are considering joining a Medicare drug plan, you should compare your current coverage, including which medications are covered, at what cost, with the coverage and cost of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. Remember that for most people there is a monthly premium for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage.

See below for more information about what happens to your current coverage if you join a Medicare drug plan.

If you **do not enroll** for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage, you will continue to receive prescription drug benefits under the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local #434 Health & Welfare Fund (as long as you are otherwise eligible to continue Plan coverage). Remember that the Plan also covers medical benefits, in addition to prescription drug benefits. You will continue to be eligible to receive the Plan's medical and prescription drug benefits.

If you **enroll** for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage, you will continue to be eligible for the Fund's prescription drug benefits. However, your prescription drug benefits will be coordinated with Medicare if you enroll.

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

You should also know that if you are entitled to Medicare and drop or lose your coverage with the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local #434 Health & Welfare Fund and do not 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 drug coverage, your monthly premium for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage may be higher. The increase may be at least 1% of the Medicare base beneficiary premium for every month that you were eligible but did not have coverage. For example, if you go 19 months without creditable coverage, your monthly 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 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. To get 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.

If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this extra help:

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- Visit Social Security on the web at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), or
  - Call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

### **For More Information about this Notice or the Fund's Prescription Drug Benefits**

If you have any questions about this Notice or would like more information about your prescription drug benefits under the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local #434 Health & Welfare Fund, please call the Fund Office at (952)-854-0795.

You'll get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this coverage through the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local #434 Health & Welfare Fund changes. You also may request a copy of this Notice at any time by contacting the Fund Office.

Date: October 2021

Plan: Plumbers & Steamfitters Local #434 Health & Welfare Fund

Contact: Wilson-McShane Corporation

Address: 3001 Metro Drive, Suite 500, Bloomington, MN, 55425

Telephone Number: (952)-854-0795 or Toll Free (800)-535-6373

*Benefits under the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local #434 Health and Welfare Fund are not vested or guaranteed. Full details of the Plan are contained in the documents that establish the Plan provisions. If there is a discrepancy between the wording here and the documents that establish the Plan, the document language will govern. The Trustees reserve the right to amend, modify, reduce, or discontinue all or part of the Plan at any time.*

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