

**Important Notice from the
Five Rivers Carpenters District Council Health and Welfare Fund
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 the Five Rivers Carpenters District Council Health and Welfare Fund ("Five Rivers Carpenters Health and Welfare Fund") 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, with 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:

1. Medicare prescription drug coverage 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 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. The Five Rivers Carpenters Health and Welfare Fund has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered under the Five Rivers Carpenters Health and Welfare Benefits Program 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. 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 a Medicare drug plan.

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 November 15th through December 31st.

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. In addition, if you lose or decide to leave employer/union sponsored coverage; you will be eligible to join a Part D plan at that time using an Employer Group Special Enrollment Period. You should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered at what cost, with the coverage and costs of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area.

What Happens To Your Current Coverage If You Decide To Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your coverage with the Five Rivers Carpenters Health and Welfare Benefits Program will be affected. See below for more information about what happens to your current coverage if you join a Medicare drug plan.

Provided below are some things you might consider in deciding whether to participate in the Five Rivers Carpenters Health and Welfare Fund prescription drug program or the Medicare prescription drug program.

- It is your choice as to which prescription program you choose, but:
 - The Medicare prescription drug program requires that you pay an additional premium for that coverage, whereas the Five Rivers Carpenters Health and Welfare Benefits prescription drug program is included as part of the premium paid by your employer for you to participate in the Five Rivers Carpenters Health and Welfare Benefits Program. Generally, there is no separate premium under the Five Rivers Carpenters Health and Welfare Benefits Program for prescription drug benefits.
 - If you choose to use the Medicare prescription drug program, you will still be eligible to receive all of your current medical benefits with the Five Rivers Carpenters Health and Welfare Program.
 - There will be no reduction in the Five Rivers Carpenters Health and Welfare Benefits Program premium paid by your employer if you choose to use the Medicare prescription drug program.
 - If you use other coverage, such as the Medicare prescription drug program, to pay your prescription drug expenses, the Five Rivers Carpenters Health and Welfare Benefits prescription

drug program will not reimburse you for any part of those expenses not covered by your other coverage. The Five Rivers Carpenters Health and Welfare Benefits prescription drug program cannot be a secondary payor with respect to any other prescription drug coverage you may have.

- The Five Rivers Carpenters Health and Welfare Benefits Program is available to all eligible retired participants with sufficient hours of contribution credit in their Dollar Bank and HRA accounts under the Plan.
- If a retired participant discontinues his or her participation in the Five Rivers Carpenters Health and Welfare Benefits Program, reinstatement may not be available.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your Five Rivers Carpenters Health and Welfare Fund prescription drug coverage, be aware that you and your dependents may not be able to get this coverage back.

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

You should also know that if you drop or lose your coverage with the Five Rivers Carpenters Health and Welfare Fund and don't 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 will 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 nineteen 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 November to join.

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

Please call Eastern Iowa Fringe Benefit Funds, Inc. for further information at 319-366-3623. **NOTE:** 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 Five Rivers Carpenters Health and Welfare Fund changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

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 for personalized help.
- 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, visit Social Security on the web at 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 whether or not you have maintained creditable coverage and, therefore, whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).

October 1, 2021
Five Rivers Carpenters Health and Welfare Fund
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