



HEALTH BENEFITS FUND OF THE DETECTIVES' ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. POLICE DEPARTMENT • CITY OF NEW YORK

26 Thomas Street, New York, NY 10007 • 212-587-9120

NOTICE OF CREDITABLE COVERAGE

Important Notice from the Health and Welfare Fund and Retiree Health and Welfare Fund of the Detectives' Endowment Association, Inc., Police Department, City of New York 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 Health and Welfare Fund and Retiree Health and Welfare Fund of the Detectives' Endowment Association, Inc., Police Department, City of New York ("the Funds") and new prescription drug coverage available January 1, 2006 for people with Medicare. It also tells you where to find more information to help you make decisions about your prescription drug coverage.

1. **Starting January 1, 2006, new Medicare prescription drug coverage will be available to everyone with Medicare.**
2. **The Funds have determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Funds is, on average for all plan participants, 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.**

You may have heard about Medicare's new prescription drug coverage, and wondered how it would affect you. The Funds have determined that your prescription drug coverage with the Funds is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay.

Starting January 1, 2006, prescription drug coverage will be 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 from the Funds is on average at least as good as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage, you can keep your prescription drug coverage from the Funds and not pay extra if you later decide to enroll in Medicare coverage.

People with Medicare can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan from November 15, 2005 through May 15, 2006. However, because you have existing prescription drug coverage from the Funds that, on average, is as good as Medicare coverage, 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.

You should compare your current prescription drug coverage from the Funds, including which drugs are covered, with the coverage and cost (including premiums, deductibles and co-payments) of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area.

You should also know that if you drop or lose your coverage with the Funds and don't enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage after your current 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's 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 15th, 2006 that you did not have that 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'll have to pay this higher premium for as long as you have Medicare coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until next November to enroll.

MEDICARE PART D AND YOUR FUND COVERAGE

If you do not opt for Medicare Part D coverage, you will continue to be able to receive the full prescription drug benefits available to you under the Funds' plan. The decision of whether or not you should enroll in Medicare Part D is an individual decision dependent on your individual circumstances after review of the benefits offered under Medicare Part D.

In addition:

- There will be **no change** in your drug benefits just because of your (or your dependent's) eligibility for Medicare;
- You will not be required to enroll in Medicare Part D

For more information about this notice or your current prescription drug coverage...

Please contact the Health and Welfare Fund and Retiree Health and Welfare Fund of the Detectives' Endowment Association, Inc., Police Department, City of New York office at 26 Thomas Street New York, New York 10007 or by telephone at 212-587-9120 for further information. 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 from the Funds at the above address.

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

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage will be available in October 2005 in the "Medicare & You 2006" handbook. 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 also 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 (see your copy of the Medicare & You handbook for their telephone number)
- 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 a Medicare prescription drug plan is available. Information about this extra help is available from the Social Security Administration (SSA). For more information about this extra help, visit SSA online at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Remember: Keep this notice. If you enroll in one of the new plans approved by Medicare, which offer prescription drug coverage after May 15, 2006, you may need to give a copy of this notice when you join to show that you are not required to pay a higher premium amount.