

Ohio Conference of Plasterers and Cement Masons Health and Welfare Fund

33 Fitch Boulevard • Austintown, Ohio 44515
Telephone (330) 270-0453 • Toll Free 1-800-435-2388



Important Notice from Ohio Conference of Plasterers and Cement Masons Health and Welfare Fund (OCPCM) 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 OCPCM 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 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. OCPCM has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Fund is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as 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 prescription drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from **October 15th** through **December 7th**, 2011.

However, if you lose 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 decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your current OCPCM coverage may be affected depending on whether you are a Retiree Member or an Active Member. Please review your options carefully.

Options Available to Retiree Members and/or their Dependents with Medicare:

- **You can keep your current medical and prescription drug coverage with OCPCM, and you do not have to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan.** You may, in the future, enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan during Medicare's annual enrollment period (October 15th through December 7th, 2011 of each year).
- **You can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan.** You cannot keep your current prescription drug coverage with OCPCM if you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan. If you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan, you will lose your prescription drug coverage under the Fund. Your medical coverage will continue. Your contribution for coverage will be the same whether you choose Medicare Part D or not. If you lose coverage, you will be permitted a one-time re-enrollment into prescription drug coverage under the Fund if you wish to return to the Fund's coverage at a later date. Be aware that only the individual enrolling in the Medicare prescription drug plan, be it the member, spouse, or dependent, will lose prescription drug coverage under the Fund. Prescription drug coverage under the Fund will continue for those individuals not enrolled in a Medicare prescription drug plan, in addition to their medical coverage.
- **You can choose to drop your prescription drug coverage with OCPCM and enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan.** Your medical coverage will continue. Your contribution for coverage will be the same whether you choose to drop your prescription drug coverage or not. If you drop coverage, you will be permitted a one-time re-enrollment into prescription drug coverage under the Fund if you wish to return to the Fund's coverage at a later date. Be aware that only the individual choosing to drop the prescription drug coverage under the Fund, be it the member, spouse or dependent, will lose prescription drug coverage under the Fund. Prescription drug coverage under the Fund will continue for those individuals choosing to remain in the prescription drug coverage under the Fund, in addition to their medical coverage.

If you do decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and/or drop your OCPCM prescription drug coverage, be aware that you will only have a one-time re-enrollment opportunity later.

Options Available to Active Members and/or their Dependents with Medicare:

- **You can keep your current medical and prescription drug coverage with OCPCM, and you do not have to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan. You may, in the future, enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan during Medicare's annual enrollment period (October 15th through December 7th of each year).**
- **You can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan. You can keep your current medical and prescription drug coverage with OCPCM. If you do this, OCPCM will pay primary to the Medicare prescription drug plan.**

For all Retiree and Active Members and/or their Dependents with Medicare:

You can keep your current coverage with OCPC and not enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan. It is important that you 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 before making any decision to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan. Retirees and/or their dependents with Medicare should perform this comparison carefully before choosing to drop prescription drug coverage with OCPCM.

The OCPCM currently provides prescription drug benefits through a retail pharmacy and mail order program. Under the Fund's retail program, you pay 20% coinsurance for generic drugs and 20% coinsurance for brand name drugs with no generic drug available. If the prescription is written as "Dispense as Written" and a generic is available you pay 20% coinsurance plus the ancillary fee. In addition, your current medical coverage under the Fund pays for other health expenses, in addition to prescription drugs.

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 OCPCM and do not join a Medicare prescription drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare prescription drug plan later.

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, your monthly Medicare prescription drug premium may go up by 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 Medicare prescription drug 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 enroll to join.

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

Contact our office listed below for further information. **NOTE:** You will get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare prescription drug plan, and if this coverage through OCPCM 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 that offer prescription drug coverage is in the "Medicare & You" handbook. You will get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare prescription drug plans.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

- Visit 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, visit Social Security on the web at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Date: September 26, 2011
Name of Entity/Sender: Ohio Conference of Plasterers and Cement Masons Health & Welfare Fund
Contact—Position/Office: Fund Administrator
Address: 33 Fitch Boulevard Austintown, OH 44515
Phone Number: (330) 270-0453

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).