



**Benefits+**  
Your Trusted Health Care Partner

September 2018

## *Important Notice*

### *Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare Part D for All Plan E Retirees Who Are Members of Kaiser Senior Advantage*

#### **2019 NOTICE OF CREDITABLE COVERAGE**

The United Food & Commercial Workers Unions and Food Employers Benefit Fund (the Benefit Fund) has determined that the prescription drug coverage it offers to Medicare-eligible Plan E Retirees through the Kaiser Senior Advantage Plan is expected to pay out on average for all such Plan E Retirees, at least as much as the standard Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan (Part D Plan) would pay in 2019, and is therefore considered “creditable coverage.”

This Notice of Creditable Coverage (NOCC) applies to Plan E Retirees who are currently enrolled in Kaiser Senior Advantage through the Benefit Fund. **Please read this Notice carefully and keep it where you can find it.**

**This NOCC does not require any action on your part** if you keep your existing coverage under the Kaiser Senior Advantage Plan. **Kaiser Senior Advantage maintains its own Part D Plan. While you are enrolled in Kaiser Senior Advantage, you are automatically enrolled in its Part D Plan.**

#### ***About Medicare Part D Enrollment***

Medicare Part D Plans are provided through Medicare (not the Benefit Fund) and are sold by various Medicare-approved insurers and HMOs. All Part D Plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare, although some Part D Plans offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.

You can join a Part D Plan when: (1) you first become eligible for Medicare; (2) each year from October 15<sup>th</sup> through December 7<sup>th</sup>; and (3) during a Special Enrollment Period. **If you do not enroll in a Part D Plan when you first become eligible**, you may have to wait until the next enrollment period, and you may also have to pay a late enrollment penalty. However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage, such as the coverage provided through the Kaiser Senior Advantage Plan, through no fault of your own, you will have a two-month Special Enrollment Period within which to enroll in a Part D Plan. Contact Medicare to see if you qualify to enroll during a Special Enrollment Period.

Medicare imposes a monthly penalty for late enrollment in a Part D Plan. If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage and then enroll in a Part D Plan, your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the Medicare base beneficiary premium for every month that you did not have either Medicare Part D Plan coverage or other creditable prescription drug coverage. If you lose your existing creditable coverage with the Benefit Fund, or you switch to a Part D Plan (not provided by the Benefit Fund), you will avoid the late enrollment penalty if you show this Notice to your new insurer and enroll no later than 62 days after your loss of coverage. But if, for example, you go 15 months without creditable coverage, your monthly premium will always be at least 15% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium.

Before you decide to enroll in a Part D Plan, you should compare your current prescription drug coverage and costs through the Kaiser Senior Advantage Plan with the coverage and costs of the Part D Plans offered in your area, including which drugs are covered.



**Remember to keep this Notice.** If you decide to join one of the Medicare Part D 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 whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium. You may request a copy of this Notice at any time by contacting the Fund Office.

### ***If You Enroll in a Part D Plan***

If you or your Medicare-eligible spouse or domestic partner enroll in a Part D Plan (that is not provided through Kaiser Senior Advantage), you will have to pay a monthly premium to the Part D Plan, and you and your family **will be removed from your Kaiser Senior Advantage medical and prescription drug coverage.**

The Benefit Fund will transfer you and your family into the Benefit Fund's **Indemnity PPO Medical Plan** and, if you are retired, your new Part D Plan coverage will become primary for your prescription drug benefits, and the Benefit Fund will become the secondary payer. This means your new Part D Plan will pay your prescription drug claims first, and you will have to follow your Part D Plan's rules about how to submit claims. Also, you will have to pay the monthly premium charged by your new Part D Plan out of your own pocket.

As the secondary payer, the Benefit Fund will review your prescription drug claims and determine under its Coordination of Benefit rules whether any portion of your claims are payable under the Benefit Fund's non-creditable Prescription Drug Program (contact the Fund Office for an explanation of non-creditable prescription drug coverage). **It will be your responsibility to submit your prescription drug claims to the Fund Office.**

**Remember, because the Kaiser Senior Advantage prescription drug coverage is at least as good as the standard Part D Plan, it may be in your best interest to keep your current coverage through Kaiser Senior Advantage and not enroll in a separate Part D Plan. In this case:**

- You can avoid paying Part D's monthly premium, and
- You will not be subject to the late enrollment penalty if you later decide to enroll in a Part D Plan before incurring a 63-day break in creditable coverage.

You do not have to complete any forms to continue your current prescription drug coverage. You may receive information from other Part D Plan providers asking you to enroll with them. You should read these offers carefully before making any decisions.

### ***For More Information***

More information about Medicare Part D Plans is available on [medicare.gov](http://medicare.gov) and in the "Medicare & You" handbook provided to Medicare participants every year. You may also call 800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227) or 877-486-2048 for TTY users.

Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program for personalized help. In California, it's called the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP). Call 800-434-0222 or visit [aging.ca.gov/hicap/](http://aging.ca.gov/hicap/). Contact information for similar programs in other states is listed in the "Medicare & You" handbook.

For people with limited income and resources, extra help is available to pay for a Medicare Part D Plan. To learn more about extra help, visit [socialsecurity.gov/](http://socialsecurity.gov/). You may also call 800-772-1213 or 800-325-0778 for TTY.

You may also call the Fund Office at any of the phone numbers below if you have any questions about your prescription drug coverage.

**If you enroll in a separate Medicare Part D Plan, you may have to provide a copy of this Notice to show that you have creditable coverage** and are not required to pay a higher premium as a penalty for late enrollment. You may request a copy of this Notice at any time by contacting the Fund Office at the address or phone numbers below.

**Contact:** Southern California United Food & Commercial Workers Unions and Food Employers Joint Benefit Funds Administration, LLC

**Address:** 6425 Katella Avenue, Cypress, California 90630-5238

**Telephone:** 714-220-2297, 562-408-2715, or 877-284-2320, extension 445 (for all three numbers).

**Esta publicación contiene información importante acerca de sus beneficios. Si usted tiene dificultad para comprender cualquier parte de esta información, o si tiene preguntas, comuníquese con su Sindicato Local o con la Oficina del Fondo al 714-220-2297, 562-408-2715 o 877-284-2320.**