



PO Box 327  
Seattle, WA 98111

11/11/1911

Addressee Name  
Addressee Addr1  
Addressee Addr2  
Addressee Addr3  
City, ST XXXXX-XXXX

**About the following notice: You are receiving this notice because our records indicate that you are/or will be eligible for Medicare in the next 12 months**

**Important Creditable Coverage Notice From Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska 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 Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska 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 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. Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by your health plan 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 drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15<sup>th</sup> through December 7<sup>th</sup>.

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.

## **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 Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska coverage will not be affected. You can keep your current coverage, but we will coordinate benefits with your Medicare Part D coverage so as not to duplicate payments. If your current coverage pays for other health expenses in addition to prescription drugs, you and your covered dependents will also still be eligible to keep your current health coverage.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska 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 current coverage with Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska 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 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 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 This Notice Or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage...**

For further information, call the Customer Service number on the back of your ID card.  
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 Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska 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***
- 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 enroll in one of the new plans approved by Medicare offering prescription drug coverage, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice to show whether or not you maintained creditable coverage and whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium amount (a penalty).**

## Discrimination is Against the Law

Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska (Premera) complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Premera does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Premera provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as qualified sign language interpreters and written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats). Premera provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as qualified interpreters and information written in other languages. If you need these services, contact the Civil Rights Coordinator. If you believe that Premera has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation, you can file a grievance with: Civil Rights Coordinator — Complaints and Appeals, PO Box 91102, Seattle, WA 98111, Toll free: 855-332-4535, Fax: 425-918-5592, TTY: 711, Email [AppealsDepartmentInquiries@Premera.com](mailto:AppealsDepartmentInquiries@Premera.com). You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, the Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you. You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave SW, Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, D.C. 20201, 1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD). Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>.

## Language Assistance

**PAUNAWA:** Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong sa wika nang walang bayad. Tumawag sa 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

**ATENCIÓN:** si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

**주의:** 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711) 번으로 전화해 주십시오.

**LUS CEEV:** Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

**ВНИМАНИЕ:** Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните 800-508-4722 (телетайп: 711).

**注意:** 如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711)。

**MO LOU SILAFIA:** Afai e te tautala Gagana fa'a Sāmoa, o loo iai auunaga fesoasoan, e fai fua e leai se togoti, mo oe, Telefoni mai: 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

**ໂປດຊາບ:** ຖ້າວ່າ ທ່ານເວົ້າພາສາ ລາວ, ການບໍລິການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອດ້ານພາສາ, ໂດຍບໍ່ເສັຽຄ່າ, ແມ່ນມີພ້ອມໃຫ້ທ່ານ. ໂທ 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

**注意事項:** 日本語を話される場合、無料の言語支援をご利用いただけます。800-508-4722 (TTY:711) まで、お電話にてご連絡ください。

**PAKDAAR:** Nu saritaem ti Ilocano, ti serbisyo para ti baddang ti lengguahe nga awanan bayadna, ket sidadaan para kenyam. Awagan ti 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

**CHÚ Ý:** Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

**УВАГА!** Якщо ви розмовляєте українською мовою, ви можете звернутися до безкоштовної служби мовної підтримки.

Телефонуйте за номером 800-508-4722 (телетайп: 711).

**เรียน:** ถ้าคุณพูดภาษาไทยคุณสามารถใช้บริการช่วยเหลือทางภาษาได้ฟรี โทร 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

**ACHTUNG:** Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

**UWAGA:** Jeżeli mówisz po polsku, możesz skorzystać z bezpłatnej pomocy językowej. Zadzwoń pod numer 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

**ملحوظة:** إذا كنت تتحدث اذكر اللغة، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية تتوافر لك بالمجان. اتصل برقم 800-508-4722 (رقم هاتف الصم والبكم: 711).

**ATANSYON:** Si w pale Kreyòl Ayisyen, gen sèvis èd pou lang ki disponib gratis pou ou. Rele 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

**ATTENTION:** Si vous parlez français, des services d'aide linguistique vous sont proposés gratuitement. Appelez le 800-508-4722 (ATS: 711).

**ATENÇÃO:** Se fala português, encontram-se disponíveis serviços linguísticos, grátis. Ligue para 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

**ATTENZIONE:** In caso la lingua parlata sia l'italiano, sono disponibili servizi di assistenza linguistica gratuiti. Chiamare il numero 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711).

**توجه:** اگر به زبان فارسی گفتگو می کنید، تسهیلات زبانی بصورت رایگان برای شما فراهم می باشد. با 800-508-4722 (TTY: 711) تماس بگیرید.