

**Important Notice from the Lake County Board of County of Commissioners
About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare D**

July 2011 Notice BlueCare (HMO) and BlueChoice (PPO) Health Plan Participants

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with Lake County Board of County Commissioners – Employee Health Benefit Plan 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 A and/or B. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare prescription drug plan or Medicare Advantage Plan 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. Lake County Board of County Commissioners (Lake County) has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the County's – Employee Health Benefit Plan 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?

Individuals can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan when they first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15th through December 7th. However, individuals who lose their current creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of their own, 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 Health Benefit Plan coverage through the County may be affected. You should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered, with the coverage and cost of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area.

For additional information about the County's prescription drug plan for the 2011 - 2012 plan year, please visit Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida’s website at www.BCBSFL.com. The medical plans offered are the BlueCare (HMO) and BlueChoice (PPO), and the current copays for prescription drugs are as follows:

Prescription Drugs	
Retail (One month)	
Generic Drugs	\$ 15 Copay
Preferred Brand Drugs	\$ 25 Copay
Non-Preferred Brand Drugs	\$ 40 Copay
Mail Order (90 days)	
Generic Drugs	\$ 30 Copay
Preferred Brand Drugs	\$ 50 Copay
Non-Preferred Brand Drugs	\$ 80 Copay

If you drop your current coverage through the County's Health Benefit Plan and enroll in a Medicare prescription drug coverage plan, be aware that you and/or your dependents may (if you are a current employee) or may not (if you are a retiree/COBRA member) be able to enroll back into the County's Health Plan during the benefits open enrollment period.

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 through the County's Employee Health Benefit Plan and do not enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage 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 October to enroll.

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

Please contact the Department of Employee Services at (352) 343-9596. NOTE: You will receive this notice annually. You will also receive it before the next period you can enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage, and if this coverage through the County's Employee Health Benefit Plan 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 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 plans:

- Visit www.medicare.gov.
- "Medicare & You" handbook – download at <http://www.medicare.gov/publications/pubs/pdf/10050.pdf>.
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see 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.

For people with limited income and resources, extra help for paying Medicare prescription drug coverage is available from the Social Security Administration (SSA) online 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 enroll in 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) amount.

Date: 7/1/2011

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