



RE: Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program

Dear HealthFlex Participant:

The Medicare Part D regulations require the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church (General Board), on behalf of the HealthFlex Plan, provide you with a *Certificate of Creditable Coverage* (Certificate) for prescription drug benefits. Your Certificate accompanies this letter.

The Certificate informs you that the prescription drug benefits provided under HealthFlex are equal to or better than those you would receive through Medicare Part D. The Certificate is proof that you were covered under a creditable employer group prescription drug plan. Therefore, if you enroll in Medicare Part D at a later date, you will not incur a late enrollment penalty, in the form of higher Medicare Part D premiums.

It is important that you read the Certificate and keep it in your records.

If you have questions, please contact the Health Team at (800) 851-2201. (Listen carefully for the prompt directing you to the Health Team via “Individual Health.”) Representatives are available from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Central time, Monday through Friday.

Sincerely,

Health Team
General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church

HealthFlex Creditable Coverage Notice

Important Notice from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church (General Board) 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 your plan sponsor under HealthFlex and prescription drug coverage available for people with Medicare. It also explains the options you have under Medicare prescription drug coverage (also known as Medicare Part D or Medicare D) and can help you decide whether or not you want to enroll. At the end of this notice is information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage.

- 1. Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare through Medicare prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage Plans that offer prescription drug coverage. All Medicare Part D 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. The General Board has determined that the prescription drug coverage provided under the Hospitalization and Medical Expense Program, also called HealthFlex is expected to pay out, on average for all plan participants, as much as the standard Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage will pay and is considered Creditable Coverage.**

Because your existing coverage is on average at least as good as standard Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage, you can keep your HealthFlex prescription drug coverage and not pay extra Medicare Part D premiums if you later decide to enroll in Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage for any reason.

Individuals can enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan when they first become eligible for Medicare and each year from November 15th through December 31st. Beneficiaries leaving employer/union coverage may be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period to sign up for a Medicare prescription drug plan when they terminate coverage under their employer plan.

You should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered, with the coverage and cost of the plans offering Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage in your area.

If you do decide to enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan and drop your HealthFlex prescription drug coverage, be aware that you and your dependents might not be able to get your HealthFlex coverage back.

Please contact us for more information about what happens to your coverage if you enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan.

If you have received information from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services indicating that you are eligible for the low income benefit or subsidy, sometimes called “extra help,” make sure to contact us for more information and assistance.

If you do not enroll in Medicare Part D, your prescription drug coverage under HealthFlex will continue after you become eligible for Medicare. You will be covered in one of three prescription drug benefit options under the HealthFlex Medicare Companion plan: Pharmacy Plan 1, 2 or 3, depending upon the choices your Plan Sponsor has made and you make. Averaged together, these Pharmacy Plans have a \$50 annual deductible, retail co-payments of \$10 for generic drugs and \$15-\$30 co-payments for brand-name drugs, mail order co-payments (for a quantities three times larger than retail supplies) of \$20 for generic drugs and \$30-\$60 for brand-name drugs; and an individual co-payment maximum of \$1,000. These are average costs. For the specific details of your prescription drug coverage, please contact your Plan Sponsor or the Health team (1-800-851-2201). In addition, you can consult the benefit summaries available online at the HealthFlex Web site.

You should also know that if you drop or lose your coverage with HealthFlex and do not enroll in Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage after your current coverage ends, you may pay more (a penalty) to enroll in Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage later.

If you go 63 days or longer without prescription drug coverage that is at least as good as Medicare's prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium for Medicare Part D will go up at least 1% per month for every month 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 many other people pay. You'll have to pay this higher premium as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following November to enroll.

[For more information about this notice or your current prescription drug coverage...](#)

Contact our office for further information or call the Health Team at the General Board at (800) 851-2201. **NOTE:** You will receive this notice annually and at other times in the future such as before the next period you can enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage, and if this coverage through HealthFlex 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'll 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
- 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 paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. Information about this extra help is available from the Social Security Administration (SSA) online at www.socialsecurity.gov, or you can 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, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show that you are not required to pay a higher premium amount.