July 19, 2019

To: All Active Participants and Dependents of the Carpenters Health and Welfare Trust Fund for California, including COBRA Beneficiaries

From: Board of Trustees

Re: Notice of Creditable Coverage 
Important Information about Medicare Prescription Drug Program (Part D)

This notice is for people with Medicare or who may become eligible for 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 Carpenters Health and Welfare Trust Fund for California and the prescription drug coverage available for people with Medicare. It also explains the options you have under Medicare’s prescription drug coverage and can help you decide whether or not you want to enroll in that Medicare prescription drug coverage. At the end of this notice is information on where you can get help to make a decision about Medicare’s prescription drug coverage.

➢ If you and/or your family members are not now eligible for Medicare, and will not be eligible during the next 12 months, you may disregard this Notice.

➢ If, however, you and/or your family members are now eligible for Medicare or may become eligible for Medicare in the next 12 months, you should read this Notice very carefully.

Prescription drug coverage for Medicare-eligible people is available through Medicare prescription drug plans (PDPs) and Medicare Advantage Plans (like an HMO or PPO) that offer 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 drug coverage for a higher monthly premium.

The Trust Fund has determined that the prescription drug coverage under the Carpenters Health and Welfare Trust Fund for California – Indemnity Medical Plan (as administered by Express Scripts) and the Kaiser Plan for Active Employees and Non-Medicare Retirees are “creditable.” (the Kaiser Senior Advantage is an actual Medicare Part D plan and this notice does not apply to Participants who are covered by this plan.)

Coverage is “Creditable” if the value of this Plan’s prescription drug benefit equals or exceeds the value of the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage. In other words, the benefit is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much or more than the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay.
Because the Plan option(s) noted above are, on average, at least as good as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage, you can keep your prescription drug coverage under the Carpenters Health and Welfare Trust Fund for California Indemnity Medical Plan, and you will not pay extra if you later decide to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage. You may enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage at a later time, and because you maintain creditable coverage, you will not have to pay a higher premium (a late enrollment penalty).

**REMEMBER TO KEEP THIS 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).

### WHEN CAN YOU JOIN A MEDICARE DRUG PLAN?

Medicare-eligible people can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan at one of the following three (3) times:

- when they first become eligible for Medicare; or
- during Medicare’s annual election period (from October 15th through December 7th); or
- for beneficiaries leaving employer/union coverage, you may be eligible for a two-month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) in which to sign up for a Medicare prescription drug plan.

When you make your decision whether to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan, you should also compare your current prescription drug coverage (including which drugs are covered and at what cost) with the coverage and cost of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area.

### YOUR RIGHT TO RECEIVE A NOTICE

You will receive this notice at least every 12 months, and at other times in the future such if the creditable/non-creditable status of the prescription drug coverage through this plan changes. You may also request a copy of a Notice at any time.

### WHY CREDITABLE COVERAGE IS IMPORTANT (When you will pay a higher premium (penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan)

If you do not have creditable prescription drug coverage when you are first eligible to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and you elect or continue prescription drug coverage under a non-creditable prescription drug plan, then at a later date when you decide to elect Medicare prescription drug coverage, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) for that Medicare prescription drug coverage for as long as you have that Medicare coverage.

Maintaining creditable prescription drug coverage will help you avoid Medicare's late enrollment penalty. This late enrollment penalty is described below:

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage (meaning drug coverage that is at least as good as Medicare’s 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 either Medicare prescription drug coverage or coverage under a creditable prescription drug plan. You may have to pay this higher premium (the penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage.
For example, if 19 months pass where you do not have creditable prescription drug coverage, when you decide to join Medicare’s drug coverage your monthly premium will always be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. Additionally, if you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage you may also have to wait until the next October to enroll for Medicare prescription drug coverage.

**WHAT ARE YOUR CHOICES?**

You can choose either one of the following options:

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<td><strong>What this option means to you:</strong></td>
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<th>OPTION 2</th>
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<td><strong>What you can do:</strong></td>
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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR OPTIONS UNDER MEDICARE’S PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is available in the “Medicare & You” handbook. A person enrolled in Medicare (a “beneficiary”) will get a copy of this handbook in the mail each year from Medicare. A Medicare beneficiary may also be contacted directly by Medicare-approved prescription drug plans.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:
- Visit www.medicare.gov
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program for personalized help. (See your copy of the Medicare & You handbook for their telephone number)
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Para mas información sobre sus opciones bajo la cobertura de Medicare para recetas medicas.

Revise el manual “Medicare Y Usted” para información detallada sobre los planes de Medicare que ofrecen cobertura para recetas medicas. Visite www.medicare.gov por el Internet o llame GRATIS al 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). Los usuarios con teléfono de texto (TTY) deben de llamar al 1-877-486-2048. Para más información sobre la ayuda adicional, visite la SSA en línea en www.socialsecurity.gov por Internet, o llámeles al 1-800-772-1213 (Los usuarios con teléfono de texto (TTY) deben de llamar al 1-800-325-0778).

For people with limited income and resources, extra help paying for a Medicare prescription drug plan is available. Information about this extra help is available from the Social Security Administration (SSA). For more information about this extra help, visit SSA online at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

For more information about this notice or your current prescription drug coverage contact:

Contact: Benefit Services Department
Carpenters Health and Welfare Trust Fund for California
Address: 265 Hegenberger Road, Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94621
Phone Number: (888) 547-2054

As in all cases, the Carpenters Health and Welfare Trust Fund for California and, when applicable, the insurance companies of the insured medical plan options offered by the Trust Fund reserves the right to modify benefits at any time, in accordance with applicable law. This document dated July 19, 2019 is intended to serve as your Medicare Notice of Creditable Coverage, as required by law.