



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IBEW - NECA ADMINISTRATIVE CORPORATION

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***Important Notice from Southern California IBEW-NECA Health Trust Fund
About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare***

Medicare Part D plans are available to every person who is eligible for Medicare. All such plans will provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare and some plans may offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium. ***Note that the Medicare Part D prescription drug program is NOT a benefit provided through the Southern California IBEW-NECA Health Trust Fund.*** It is provided through Medicare and is marketed by various Medicare-approved "Prescription Drug Providers" (PDPs). If you are eligible for Medicare, you will have a chance to enroll in a Medicare-approved Part D plan from October 15th through December 7th of each year. If you ever lose your current Southern California IBEW-NECA Health Trust Fund prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will then be eligible for a two-month special enrollment period to enroll in a Part D plan.

This notice is to inform you that your current prescription drug benefit program through the Southern California IBEW-NECA Health Trust Fund provides "creditable coverage," as defined below. It also includes answers to questions you may have regarding your current prescription drug program and how it relates to Medicare Part D coverage.

2025 CERTIFICATE OF CREDITABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

The Southern California IBEW-NECA Health Trust Fund hereby certifies that the prescription drug coverage it provides to Medicare-eligibles is expected to pay out, on average for all such participants, at least as much as the standard Part D coverage would pay in calendar year 2025. It is therefore designated as providing 2025 "creditable coverage," meaning that any participant who later enrolls in a Part D plan will not be charged a late enrollment penalty for 2025.

This is your notice of creditable coverage. Be sure to read it carefully and keep it in a safe place where you can find it. If you lose this notice and need another copy, please call the Southern California IBEW-NECA Health Trust Fund's Health Benefits Department at (323) 221-5861 or (800) 824-6935, or request a copy in writing from 100 Corson Street, Suite 200, Pasadena, CA 91103. Updated versions of this notice will be sent annually, and you will be informed if the Fund ever loses its creditable coverage status.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(1) If I am a retired Health Trust Fund participant, do I need to do anything now?

No, if you stay with Kaiser or Anthem Blue Cross then you have the Part D plan provided by that HMO/PPO. You cannot be enrolled in more than one Part D plan at a time, so if you attempt to sign up with another Part D provider you risk being disenrolled from your HMO/PPO medical and drug coverage. Once terminated, you will not be permitted to re-enroll in the Retiree Health Plan. Call your HMO/PPO if you have any questions.

(2) If I am an active Health Trust Fund participant, do I need to do anything now?

No, you don't need to do anything.

When you first become eligible for Medicare¹, you will have the option to independently enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan. However, ***by enrolling in a Part D plan you will permanently lose your current coverage under the Southern California IBEW-NECA Health Trust Fund and you will not be reimbursed for your Part D premiums.*** Once terminated, you will not be permitted to re-enroll in the Retiree Health Plan. As mentioned above, the standard Part D benefit is not as good as the Southern California IBEW-NECA Health Trust Fund's own prescription drug program (as described in your Southern California IBEW-NECA Health Trust Fund *Summary Plan Description*).

You should compare your current prescription drug program, including which drugs are covered, with the benefits and costs of the Medicare Part D plans available in your area. To view the official summary of approved Medicare Part D plans in any U.S. state, visit <https://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan/questions/home.aspx>. Note that a Part D plan might not include your regular prescription drugs on its formulary. The Fund cannot provide you with a complete comparison of available Part D plans, but we urge you to carefully review any descriptions you may obtain.

¹ Your Medicare Initial Enrollment Period will be the month in which you become age 65, plus the preceding three months and the succeeding three months.

(3) *So why do I need to keep my notice of creditable coverage?*

In case you ever drop or lose your Southern California IBEW-NECA Health Trust Fund coverage, or in the unlikely event that Southern California IBEW-NECA Health Trust Fund coverage becomes non-creditable, having this notice will allow you to immediately enroll in a Part D plan without having to pay a late enrollment penalty. Specifically, if you try to enroll after your initial eligibility period, you will be charged a permanent Part D premium surcharge of 1% for every month since your initial Medicare eligibility for which you cannot show that you had creditable coverage (if such non-creditable period exceeds 62 days). Also note that you may have to wait for the next regular annual Part D enrollment period, which will be October 15th through December 7th for coverage in the following calendar year.

(4) *How can I get more information on Medicare Part D?*

More detail will be in the handbook “Medicare & You” that will be mailed to you by Medicare in October of each year. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare-approved Part D providers. At any time, you can visit <http://www.medicare.gov/> or call 1-800-MEDICAR (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Every state has a Health Insurance Assistance Program to help Medicare beneficiaries and their families with their health insurance choices and with problems that might arise. In California it is called the “Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program” (HICAP) and can be reached (by non-cell phones only) at 1-800-434-0222. Further assistance is available from the California Senior Information line (also by non-cell phones only) at 1-800-510-2020. Contact information for similar programs in other states will be listed in your “Medicare & You” handbook.

For people with limited income and resources, extra help paying for a Medicare prescription drug plan is available. For more information about this extra help, visit the Social Security Administration website at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/> or call them at 1-800-772-1213. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778.

Be sure to keep this notice. If you enroll in one of the plans approved by Medicare which offer prescription drug coverage, you may need to give a copy of this notice when you join to show that you are not required to pay a higher premium.

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Southern California IBEW-NECA Health Trust Fund
September 20, 2024
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Date: September 20, 2024
Plan Sponsor: Southern California IBEW-NECA Health Trust Fund
Address: Health Benefits Department
100 Corson Street, Suite 200, Pasadena, CA 91103
Telephone: (323) 221-5861 or (800) 824-6935