

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1 What is it?

Medicare Part D is a prescription drug benefit offered under the United States federal government's Medicare program. It was created in 2006 as a replacement for the former Medicare+Choice program.

### 3 Who is eligible?

To qualify for Medicare Part D, you must meet certain requirements. Eligibility includes those who are 65 or older, people who have received Social Security Disability(SSDI) for more than 24 months, or those who have been diagnosed with end-stage renal disease.

### 5 What plans are available?

There are two major options for Medicare Part D plans: stand alone and managed care. Stand alone plans are sold directly by insurance companies. Managed care plans are sold through HMOs and PPOs. Both stand alone and managed care plans cover both brand name and generic medications.

### 7 If I have similar coverage do I still need Part D?

You don't need to enroll in Medicare Part D. Employer, Tricare, and IHS are all considered creditable coverage.

### 2 How does it work?

The basic idea behind Part D is to provide seniors with access to affordable prescription drugs. To do this, the U.S. government provides subsidies to private insurance companies who then offer coverage for prescription drugs.

### 4 What happens if I don't sign up?

If you don't sign up for Medicare during your Initial Enrollment Period, you may have a late enrollment penalty. These penalties are for a lifetime and are added to your monthly premium. The penalties are calculated based on how long you go without creditable coverage.

### 6 Do I need to pay out of pocket for my meds?

Some plans have copays. The specified amount varies depending on your plan.

#### KEY ITEMS

- Part D contains the drug formulary. If a patient's medications are not on the formulary they can request an exception, pay out of pocket, or file an appeal.
- Part D plans will also cover most vaccines, except for those covered in Part B.
- Part D plans do exclude some drugs from being covered by law, these include certain drugs to treat weight loss or gain, and OTC medications.