

## **Important Notice From Queen Creek Unified School District 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 Queen Creek Unified School District 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. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.**

**There are three 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. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or join a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO) that offers prescription drug coverage. All Medicare 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. Queen Creek Unified School District has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the HDHP Base \$2,600 Plan is, on average for all plan participants, NOT expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays. Therefore, your coverage is considered Non-Creditable Coverage. This is important because, most likely, you will get more help with your drug costs if you join a Medicare drug plan, than if you only have prescription drug coverage from the HDHP Base \$2,600 Plan. This also is important because it may mean that you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you do not join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible.**
- 3. You can keep your current coverage from HDHP Base \$2,600 Plan. However, because your coverage is non-creditable, you have decisions to make about Medicare prescription drug coverage that may affect how much you pay for that coverage, depending on if and when you join a drug plan. When you make your decision, you should compare your current coverage, including what drugs are covered, with the coverage and cost of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug**

**coverage in your area. Read this notice carefully - it explains your options.**

### **When Can You Join A Medicare Drug Plan?**

You can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15<sup>th</sup> to December 7<sup>th</sup>.

However, if you decide to drop your current coverage with Queen Creek Unified School District, since it is employer/union sponsored group coverage, you will be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan; however you also may pay a higher premium (a penalty) because you did not have creditable coverage under HSA Choice Plus 2600 Plan.

### **When Will You Pay A Higher Premium (Penalty) To Join A Medicare Drug Plan?**

Since the coverage under HDHP Base \$2,600 Plan is not creditable, depending on how long you go without creditable prescription drug coverage you may pay a penalty to join a Medicare drug plan. Starting with the end of the last month that you were first eligible to join a Medicare drug plan but didn't join, if you go 63 continuous days or longer without prescription drug coverage that's creditable, 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 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 (penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

### **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 Queen Creek Unified School District coverage will be affected.**

You can keep your current medical and prescription drug coverage with this Plan and you do not have to enroll in Medicare Part D. If however you keep this Plan coverage and also enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan you will have dual prescription drug coverage and this Plan will coordinate its drug payments with Medicare. Please refer to your Summary Plan Description for benefit details and more information on how the Plan coordinates with Medicare. If you enroll in

a Medicare prescription drug plan you will need to pay the Medicare Part D premium out of your own pocket.

Note that you may not drop just the prescription drug coverage under this Plan. That is because prescription drug coverage is part of the entire medical plan. Generally you may only drop medical plan coverage at this Plan's next Open Enrollment period.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Queen Creek Unified School District coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will need to refer to your district policy regarding guidelines for reenrollment, if applicable.

### **For More Information About This Notice Or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage...**

Contact the person listed below for further information.

**NOTE:** You'll get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan and if this coverage through Queen Creek Unified School District 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'll get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare drug plans.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

- Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of 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.

If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

**Remember: Keep this Non-Creditable Coverage 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).**

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**CMS Form 10182-NC**

**Updated April 1, 2011**

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