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Medicare Part D Notice Due by October 14:

Model Notices Available Online

In preparation for the Medicare fall open enrollment period, employers sponsoring **group health plans that include prescription drug coverage** are required to notify all Medicare-eligible individuals whether such coverage is creditable. <u>Creditable coverage</u> means that the coverage is expected to pay, on average, as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage.

Written Disclosure to Individuals

This <u>written disclosure notice</u> must be provided annually by **October 14**, and at various other times as required under the law, to the following individuals:

- Medicare-eligible active working individuals and their dependents (including a Medicare-eligible individual when he or she joins the plan);
- Medicare-eligible COBRA individuals and their dependents;
- Medicare-eligible disabled individuals covered under an employer's prescription drug plan; and
- Any retirees and their dependents.

Model notices are available from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Online Disclosure to CMS Also Required

Additionally, employers are required to complete an <u>online disclosure</u> to CMS to report the creditable coverage status of their prescription drug plans. This disclosure is also required annually, **no later than 60** days from the beginning of a plan year, and at certain <u>other times</u>.

Summit Benefit Solutions clients will receive detailed information from their Account Managers describing the requirements to supply a Medicare Part D notice to employees, and information on the CMS Online Filing Disclosure.

Visit our section on <u>Medicare</u> for more information about how the law affects employer-provided group health plans.

HR News Alerts provided by:

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