XX. Important Notice from the UPlan Medical Program for Employees, Early Retirees, Disabled, and COBRA Participants and Dependents Concerning Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

If you or a covered dependent has Medicare Part A and/or B (or will be eligible within the next 12 months) you’ll want to read this notice about your current Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare. If not, you can disregard this notice.

NOTE: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations require us to send this notification to all individuals with prescription drug coverage who are eligible for Medicare. We’re including this information in our Guide for UPlan Open Enrollment because we don’t know if you’re entitled to Medicare or not. Medicare entitlement includes individuals who qualify for Medicare because of a disability or end-stage renal disease (ESRD), as well as individuals who are over age 65.

This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with the University of Minnesota’s UPlan Medical Program for employees, early retirees, disabled, and COBRA participants (and dependents) and the prescription drug coverage available for people with Medicare. It also explains the options you have under Medicare prescription drug coverage and can help you decide whether or not you want to enroll. At the end of this notice is information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage.

1. Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare through Medicare prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage Plans 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 coverage for a higher monthly premium. The five plans in the University of Minnesota Retiree Medical Program for Over 65 Retirees will automatically enroll you in the Medicare prescription drug benefit and will include coverage that is at least as good as the Medicare prescription drug benefit.

2. The University of Minnesota has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the UPlan Employee Medical Program is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay and is considered Creditable Coverage.

If you have a spouse or dependent on a Medicare plan, separate communications will be sent to them regarding their coverage.

Because your existing UPlan Employee Medical coverage is on average at least as good as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay extra if you later decide to enroll in the Medicare prescription drug program.

If you decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and drop your UPlan Employee Medical Program prescription drug coverage, be aware that you cannot get this coverage back.

You can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15 through December 7. When you leave employer/union coverage you may be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period to sign up for a Medicare prescription drug plan.

You should also know that if you drop or lose your coverage with your UPlan Employee Medical Program and don’t enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage after your current coverage ends, you may pay more (a penalty) to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage later.
If you go 63 days or longer without prescription drug coverage that’s at least as good as Medicare’s prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium will go up at least one percent per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go 19 months without coverage, your premium will always be at least 19 percent higher than what many other people pay. You’ll have to pay this higher premium as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following November to enroll. However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two month Special Enrollment Period to join a Medicare drug plan.

Call 612-624-UOHR (612-624-8647) or 800-756-2363 to reach the University of Minnesota Employee Benefits Service Center.

NOTE: You will receive this notice annually and at other times in the future such as before the next period you can enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage, and if this coverage through the UPlan Employee Medical Program changes. You also may request a copy.

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is available in the “Medicare & You” handbook. You’ll get a copy of the handbook in the mail from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare prescription drug plans. When you are approaching age 65, you will also receive information about the University of Minnesota’s Retiree Medical Programs for retirees over age 65.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug plans:

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

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](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

**Remember:** Keep this notice. If you enroll in one of the new plans approved by Medicare which offer prescription drug coverage you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show that you are not required to pay a higher premium amount.

Date: December 2013
Sender: University of Minnesota Employee Benefits Department