

**Important Notice from IUOE Local 14-14B Welfare Fund About
Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare**

**NOTICE OF CREDITABLE COVERAGE
FOR ACTIVES AND DEPENDENTS WHO ARE MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE**

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with IUOE Local 14-14B Welfare Fund 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. If you are considering joining, you should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered at what cost, with the coverage and costs of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.

There are two 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. The Board of Trustees of the IUOE Local 14-14B Welfare Fund has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the IUOE Local 14-14B Welfare Fund 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. Because your existing coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.**

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR CURRENT COVERAGE IF YOU DECIDE TO JOIN A MEDICARE DRUG PLAN?

*If you do decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan, your current IUOE Local 14-14B Welfare Fund coverage will not be affected and your current prescription drug coverage will continue as long as you continue to meet the eligibility requirements of the Fund. If you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and you are an **active** participant, your coverage with this Fund will be primary and Medicare will pay on a secondary basis after this Fund has paid its benefits. In addition, your current coverage pays for other health expenses, in addition to prescription drugs, and, provided you continue to meet the Fund's eligibility rules, you will still be eligible to receive all of your health and prescription drug benefits even if you choose to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan.*

If you decide not to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan, your current prescription drug coverage will not be affected, and your current coverage will continue as long as you continue to meet the eligibility requirements of the Fund.

WHEN CAN YOU JOIN A MEDICARE DRUG PLAN?

You can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan from October 15 to December 7 each year (the annual enrollment period). However, if you lose your current creditable prescription coverage, through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU LATER LOSE OR DROP COVERAGE WITH IUOE LOCAL 14-14B WELFARE FUND AND YOU DO NOT ENROLL IN A MEDICARE DRUG PLAN?

You should also know that if you drop or lose your current coverage with the Fund and do not join a Medicare drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan later.

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, 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 (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

For More Information About This Notice or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage...

Contact the Fund Office at 718-939-1489 if you would like more information. **NOTE:** You will 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 the IUOE Local 14-14B Welfare Fund 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
- 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, or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Date: October 20, 2023
Name of Entity/Sender: IUOE Local 14-14B Welfare Fund
Address: 159-18 Northern Blvd, Flushing NY, 11358
Phone Number: 718-939-1489

Remember: Keep this 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).

As in all cases, the Board of Trustees of the IUOE Local 14-14B Welfare Fund reserves the right to modify benefits at any time, in accordance with applicable law. This document is intended to serve as your Notice of Creditable Coverage as required by law.