

Important Notice From TICUA Benefit Consortium, Inc. Health Plan About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

This notice applies to all Medicare Part D eligible individuals. A "Part D eligible individual" is an individual who:

- ✓ is entitled to benefits under Medicare Part A or is enrolled in Medicare Part B; and
- ✓ lives in the service area of a Part D plan.

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with TICUA Benefit Consortium, Inc. Health Plan and 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 to everyone with Medicare through Medicare prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage Plans that offer prescription drug coverage in 2006. 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.**
- 2. TICUA Benefit Consortium, Inc. Health Plan has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered in the Medicare Supplement Plan is, on average for all plan participants, NOT expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay and is considered Non-Creditable Coverage. This is important, because for most people enrolled in the Medicare Supplement Plan, enrolling in Medicare prescription drug coverage means you will get more assistance with drug costs than if you had prescription drug coverage exclusively through the Medicare Supplement Plan.**
- 3. 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 enroll. Read this notice carefully - it explains your options.**

Consider enrolling in Medicare prescription drug coverage.

Because the coverage you have with the TICUA Benefit Consortium, Inc. Health Plan Medicare Supplement is on average for all plan participants, NOT expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay, consider enrolling in a Medicare prescription drug plan. Individual's can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan when they first become eligible for Medicare and each year from November 15th through December 31st. Beneficiary's leaving employer/union coverage may be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period to sign up for a Medicare prescription drug plan.

This may mean that you will have to wait to enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage and that you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you join later and you will pay that higher premium as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage.

If you go 63 days or longer without prescription drug coverage that is at least as good as Medicare's prescription drug coverage, your premium will go up at least 1% per month for every month after May 15, 2006, that you did not have that coverage. You will have to pay this higher premium as long as you have Medicare prescription

drug coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without coverage, your premium will always be at least 19% higher than what many other people pay.

Under the TICUA Benefit Consortium, Inc. Health Plan, when you are covered as a retiree or the dependent of a retiree and are eligible for Medicare you may choose to:

- 1.) remain covered under the Medicare Supplement and NOT enroll in Medicare Part D;
- 2.) remain covered under the Medicare Supplement plan and enroll in Medicare Part D, which will then pay benefits primary to the TICUA Benefit Consortium, Inc. Health Plan, or;
- 3.) drop all coverage under the TICUA Benefit Consortium, Inc. Health Plan and become covered ONLY by Medicare, including Part D.

NOTE that benefits under the Medicare Supplement plan are determined as if you are enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B WHETHER OR NOT YOU ARE ACTUALLY ENROLLED. You MAY NOT enroll in Medicare Part D and drop only the prescription coverage under the TICUA Benefit Consortium, Inc. Health Plan.

You need to make a decision.

When you make your decision, you should also compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered, with the coverage and cost of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area.

For more information about this notice or your current prescription drug coverage...

Contact our office for further information. NOTE: You will receive this notice annually and at other times in the future such before the next period you can enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage, and if this coverage through TICUA Benefit Consortium, Inc. Health plan changes. You also may request a copy.

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 from Medicare. You'll get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare-approved prescription drug plans. For more information about Medicare prescription drug plans:

- Visit 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 Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. Information about this extra help is available from the Social Security Administration (SSA) online at www.socialsecurity.gov, or you call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Date:	October 31, 2006
Name of Entity/Sender:	TICUA Benefit Consortium, Inc.
Contact-Position/Office:	Executive Director
Address:	1031 17 th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212
Phone Number:	615.292.3535