

# Puget Sound Electrical Workers Healthcare Trust

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Administered by  
Welfare & Pension Administration Service, Inc.

October 12, 2018

## **Important Notice from Puget Sound Electrical Workers Healthcare Trust About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare**

Medicare Part D plans are available to every person who is eligible for Medicare. All such plans will provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare and some plans may offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium. *Note that the Medicare Part D prescription drug program is NOT a benefit provided through the Puget Sound Electrical Workers Healthcare Trust.* It is provided through Medicare and is marketed by various Medicare-approved “Prescription Drug Providers” (PDPs). If you are eligible for Medicare, you will have a chance to enroll in a Medicare-approved Part D plan from October 15<sup>th</sup> through December 7<sup>th</sup> of each year.

This notice is to inform you that your current prescription drug benefit program through the Puget Sound Electrical Workers Healthcare Trust provides “creditable coverage,” as defined below. It also includes answers to questions you may have regarding your current prescription drug program and how it relates to Medicare Part D coverage.

### **2019 CERTIFICATE OF CREDITABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE**

The Puget Sound Electrical Workers Healthcare Trust hereby certifies that the prescription drug coverage it provides to Medicare-eligibles is expected to pay out, on average for all such participants, at least as much as the standard Part D coverage would pay in calendar year **2019**. It is therefore designated as providing **2019** “creditable coverage,” meaning that any participant who later enrolls in a Part D plan will not be charged a late enrollment penalty for **2019**.

***This is your notice of creditable coverage.*** Be sure to read it carefully and keep it in a safe place where you can find it. If you lose this notice and need another copy, please call the Fund's Administrator at (866) 314-4239, or request a copy in writing from Welfare & Pension Administration Service, Inc., P.O. Box 34203, Seattle, WA 98124. Updated versions of this notice will be sent annually and you will be informed if the Fund ever loses its creditable coverage status.

## ***FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS***

### ***(1) Do I need to do anything now?***

No, you can keep using the Fund's prescription drug program the same as you always have. Your copayments will not change, nor will any pharmacy network.

### ***(2) When can I join a Medicare Part D Plan?***

You can join a Medicare Part D Plan when you first become eligible for Medicare<sup>1</sup>, and each year thereafter from October 15 to December 7.

However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug 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 Part D Plan.

### ***(3) What happens to my current coverage if I decide to join a Medicare Part D Plan?***

***By enrolling in a Medicare Part D Plan you will permanently lose your current prescription drug coverage under the Puget Sound Electrical Workers Healthcare Trust and you will not be reimbursed for your Part D premiums. If you do decide to join a Medicare Part D Plan and drop your Fund prescription drug coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will not be able to get the Fund prescription drug coverage back.*** As mentioned above, the standard Medicare Part D benefit is not as good as the Fund's own prescription drug program (as described in your Fund plan booklet).

You should compare your current prescription drug program, including which drugs are covered, with the benefits and costs of the Medicare Part D plans available in your area. To view the official summary of approved Medicare Part D plans in any U.S. state, visit <https://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan/questions/home.aspx>. Note that a Medicare Part D plan might not include your regular prescription drugs or its formulary. The Fund cannot provide you with a complete comparison of available Medicare Part D plans, but we urge you to carefully review any descriptions you may obtain.

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<sup>1</sup> Your Medicare Initial Enrollment Period will be the month in which you become age 65, plus the preceding three months and the succeeding three months.

**(4) *So why do I need to keep my notice of creditable coverage?***

In case you ever drop or lose your Fund coverage, or in the unlikely event that Fund coverage becomes non-creditable, having this notice will allow you to immediately enroll in a Medicare Part D plan without having to pay a late enrollment penalty.

**(5) *When will I pay a higher premium (penalty) to join a Medicare Part D Plan?***

You should also know that if you drop or lose your current coverage with the Fund and don't join a Medicare Part D 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 Part D drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

**(6) *How can I get more information on Medicare Part D?***

More detail will be in the handbook "Medicare & You" that is mailed to you by Medicare in October of each year. For personalized help you can call the number on the inside back cover of the handbook for your state's Health Insurance Assistance Program. Also, at any time you can visit <http://www.medicare.gov> or call 1-800-MEDICAR (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. For more information about this extra help, visit the Social Security Administration website at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/> or call them at 1-800-772-1213. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778.

***Be sure to keep this notice. If you enroll in one of the plans approved by Medicare which offer prescription drug coverage, you may need to give a copy of this notice when you join to show that you are not required to pay a higher premium.***

**Date:** October 12, 2018  
**Plan Sponsor:** Puget Sound Electrical Workers Healthcare Trust  
**Administrator:** Welfare & Pension Administration Service, Inc.  
**Address:** P.O. Box 34203, Seattle, WA 98124  
**Telephone:** (866) 314-4239 or (206) 441-4667