The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement & Modernization Act was effective January 1, 2006. This federal legislation provides new Medicare prescription drug coverage, also called Medicare D, available to everyone with Medicare.

The University of Maine System is required to distribute a Notice of Credible Coverage outlining options regarding the new Medicare prescription drug coverage program for anyone who becomes eligible for Medicare. All employees of the University of Maine System, their spouses or eligible domestic partners, retirees, widows/widowers, or former employees receiving Long Term Disability benefits who reach age 65 or become eligible for Medicare as a result of receiving Social Security disability benefits for 24 months (regardless of age) will receive the required Notice of Credible Coverage during the annual open enrollment period.

The current prescription coverage provided through the University’s group health plan with CIGNA provides a better prescription benefit than the one being offered under the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage.

If you are eligible for Medicare, you are eligible to enroll in Medicare D coverage. However, if you enroll, the benefit payments you receive will not be as good as you currently have through your University plan. **Also, if you choose to enroll in Medicare D, under federal law you will have to cancel your group health plan through the University, which includes health as well as prescription coverage.**

If you are eligible for Medicare and have questions, please contact the Employee Benefits Center - Telephone 207-973-3373.

Please note that the University of Maine System still requires that you enroll in Medicare A (hospitalization) and B (physician/out-patient), if eligible, in order to retain your University group health coverage as a retiree.

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