

New prescription drug plan for Medicare-eligible retirees



**Stephanie
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I am excited to announce a new prescription drug plan for our High Option Medicare-eligible retirees beginning in January 2024. Since this is a new offering, I thought it was pertinent to take some time this month to discuss the benefits. The new coverage is called SilverScript PDP.

NALC's SilverScript coverage combines a standard Medicare Part D prescription drug plan with additional prescription coverage provided by the Plan. The additional coverage is designed to close the gaps between the standard Part D plan and your current coverage.

I know that many of our members are comfortable with the Plan's current prescription benefits and prefer not to experience change, however, the new coverage has been custom-tailored for participants in the NALC Health Benefit Plan and will provide you with even more savings. Our SilverScript PDP was built in a way that allows our members the ability to take advantage of lower-cost medications associated with Medicare Part D, but that also provides assurance that you will never pay more than you pay for your existing prescription coverage provided by the Plan.

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Specifically, this move allows the NALC HBP the ability to provide each SilverScript PDP enrollee with a Medi-

care Part B Premium reimbursement of up to \$600.

The SilverScript prescription drug plan offers:

- An extensive network of pharmacies that includes national chains
- An inclusive formulary—or drug list—of Medicare Part D drugs
- Coverage of some drugs that are not covered by Medicare
- CVS Caremark® Mail Service Pharmacy for your Part D maintenance drugs or prescriptions commonly used to treat conditions that are considered chronic or long term
- Specialty pharmacy services for complex-condition medicines that require:
 - Special handling
 - Refrigeration
 - Education and support

To make it easy for our members to take advantage of the cost savings associated with our new prescription coverage, the NALC HBP will automatically enroll you in our SilverScript plan unless you are currently covered under a Medicare Advantage Plan. We will also submit your enrollment to Medicare and pay the Medicare Part D premiums on your behalf.

Although there are many financial benefits to enrolling in the program, if you do not wish to be enrolled, you will be provided an opportunity to opt out and remain within your current prescription coverage. During the opt-out period, there will be no requirement to submit physical or electronic notices to SilverScript; you will simply be able to call SilverScript and instruct the representative to remove you from the SilverScript plan. Upon opting out of SilverScript, you will automatically remain with your current NALC prescription plan, which does not include any reimbursement toward your Medicare B premium.

Members will receive a new identification card from SilverScript to use at the pharmacy, but your medical identification card will remain the same. Beginning on your effective date, you will be able to fill your prescriptions at your local pharmacy within the SilverScript pharmacy network or through the CVS Caremark Mail Service Pharmacy™.

However, if your spouse or dependent child has prescription drug coverage through the Plan and is not

enrolled in SilverScript, they will continue to use their current identification card through the NALC HBP to get their prescriptions filled.

I believe that SilverScript is an excellent offering for our eligible members and an opportunity for those enrolled in Medicare to acquire additional savings.

We know that this is a change in the administration of your retiree prescription drug plan, and you may have many questions. Please know that we are diligently working to make this change as seamless as possible and to provide you with a positive experience. If you have any questions, please contact us.

By the time this article reaches you, Open Season may be nearing a close, or possibly already have closed. If you are a current member and choose to stay with us, I would like to thank you for your dedication. Your commitment is appreciated more than we can say. If you are a new member who has enrolled or may be considering us as an option, then I also say thank you for adding us to your list and giving us the chance to stand out. Together, let's make 2024 an even healthier year.

In closing, I would like to take this time to wish you and your families a joyous holiday season and a happy new year.

MDD-TR updates (continued)

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also functions as a large sliding tray. When the bottom handle of the compartment is lifted, the carrier can slide the entire section out through the rear door. This area also is accessible from either side of the vehicle by unhooking the attached netting. Testing of the C250 is being conducted Nov. 6, 2023, through Feb. 16, 2024.

MDD Software Version 7.80

Also in October, the Postal Service shared the latest update to the MDD-TR, release 7.80. The update includes several enhancements that will affect city carriers.

One enhancement to the MDD-TR is related to Certified Mail processed into the Delivery Point Sequence (DPS) automated mail. In my October column, I discussed a notification received from USPS detailing its plan to conduct a pilot test using the MDD-TR to communicate with carriers when they have Certified Mail in their DPS. During the pilot program, the MDD-TR notified carriers as they approached a Certified Mail delivery point using its GPS capabilities. The device also tracked the total number of Certified Mail pieces and delivery attempts the carrier made throughout the day then the option to conduct a Certified Mail review was

presented to the carrier at the end of the tour. Through software update 7.80, the Certified Mail test features have now been implemented on all MDD-TR devices nationally. For more details regarding the pilot test, please see my October column.

Another feature of Release 7.80 is a popup reminder for carriers to enter their vehicle return mileage before ending their tour for the day. As a carrier breaks the geofence of the delivery unit when returning from the street, a reminder will display, "Please remember to enter Ending Mileage for the day." If the ending mileage is not input, when the carrier attempts to enter an "End Tour" the scanner will display the message, "Ending Mileage has not been reported. Press Enter to proceed." After pressing enter, the scanner will redirect the carrier back to the Ending Mileage entry screen. The MDD-TR will not accept an "End Tour" clock ring for the carrier until a vehicle return mileage is submitted.

In closing, I want to remind carriers to be mindful of safety hazards on the street when loading and unloading from the rear of the vehicle.

My staff and I will continue to monitor these initiatives and provide updates to the membership. Be sure to read my article each month and visit nalc.org for the latest information.