
From the Administrator

I know that many of you are disappointed at the demise of *Renewed & Ready*. While we are pleased with the look and feel of *Reflections*, it certainly can't fill the place of that remarkable paper. From now on, at the beginning of the month, retirees will receive *Reflections*. We will limit ourselves to issues closest to us in retirement. We will have answers to frequently asked questions in healthcare and benefits. We hope it will be useful information.

It is unfortunate that for the first issue of the re-born *Reflections*, we have to use virtually all of the space on the annual federally mandated information regarding our prescription drug plan, but such is life. That information is useful only for

those who are currently participants in SHARP's Rx plan. Future issues will have more variety.

These are challenging times for this country and this church. Declines in income and asset values are forcing all of us to review every expense item, and driving us in retirement to refine our focus on our mandate, providing retirement benefits to those who have served. Keep us in your prayers, as we keep you in ours.

Del Johnson, Administrator

Important Notice from SHARP

About SHARP's Prescription Drug Coverage (Rx Option) and the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with Supplemental Healthcare, Adventist Retirement Plan (SHARP) Rx Option¹ 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 under the Rx Option, 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 provided at the end of this notice.

1. SHARP's Rx Option is the only coverage available to participants in SHARP that offers prescription drug coverage to persons eligible for Medicare.

There are two important things you need to know about your current SHARP Rx Option 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. This coverage is sometimes referred to as Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage. In general Medicare Part D provides coverage for prescription drugs not covered under Medicare Part A and Part B. All Medicare prescription drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some Medicare plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.
2. The Supplemental Healthcare, Adventist Retirement Plan has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered under its Rx Option is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage under Medicare. Because your prescription drug coverage under SHARP's Rx Option is, on average, at least as good as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage, you can keep (or enroll in) SHARP's Rx Option coverage (instead of enrolling in a Medicare prescription drug plan) and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare prescription drug plan.

When Can You Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

You can join a Medicare prescription drug plan

when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from November 15th to December 31st.

However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you also will be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) 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 and drop (or decline to enroll in) SHARP Rx Option coverage, be aware that you will not be able to get the SHARP Rx Option coverage back unless and until the next open enrollment period occurs for you under SHARP that allows you to add coverage. There are very few open enrollment periods under SHARP, and you may not be eligible for one.

Under SHARP, you are not allowed to receive prescription drug coverage under both Medicare prescription drug coverage and the SHARP Rx Option. You must choose one or the other. Therefore, it is important to make an informed deliberate decision. Do not enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage "just in case."

You have the following two options concerning prescription drug coverage in the SHARP:

1. You may stay with SHARP's Rx Option coverage and not enroll in the Medicare prescription drug coverage at this time. You will be able to enroll in the Medicare prescription drug coverage at a later date without penalty, either (1) during a Medicare prescription drug open enrollment period; or (2) if you lose coverage under SHARP.

2. You may drop your SHARP's Rx Option coverage (when allowed to do so under SHARP), or decline to enroll in the Rx Option, and instead enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage. If and when you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan, you become ineligible to participate in SHARP's Rx Option, and SHARP will not assist you with the premium you will pay to participate in a Medicare prescription drug plan. You will not be able to enroll or reenroll in SHARP's Rx Option coverage until the next open enrollment period for such coverage, and you will only be able to enroll or reenroll if you drop your Medicare prescription drug coverage. *If you do decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and decline or drop SHARP Rx Option prescription drug coverage, be aware that you may not be able to get SHARP Rx Option drug coverage until the next open enrollment period.* If you have chosen not to participate in the SHARP Rx Option, you may continue to participate in other SHARP options provided, such as Dental/Vision/Hearing and Medicare Extension.

If you have questions, please contact us for more information about what happens to your coverage under the Rx Option if you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan.

The standard Medicare prescription drug plan has the following features. The threshold amounts are subject to annual adjustments by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The thresholds for 2010 are shown below, with the thresholds for 2009 shown in parentheses.

- Annual Deductible of \$310 (\$295 for 2009).
- After you have met the annual deductible, Medicare pays 75% of the next \$2,520

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This Month: **Oct. 27**

Next Month: **Nov. 27**

Adventist Retirement Plans

Del Johnson
Administrator

Lyn Wick
Associate Administrator

Judy Beers
Associate Administrator

Maurine Wahlen
Assistant Administrator

Adventist Risk Management: 1-800-447-5002
Healthcare Claims Queries

SHARP: 301-680-5036
SHARP@nad.adventist.org
Healthcare Eligibility Queries

Submit all claims to:
Adventist Risk Management—SHARP
PO Box 1928
Grapevine, TX 76099-1928

Medco Health: 1-800-841-5396
Verify pharmacy participation with
Medco Health

Steve Gifford
President, NAD Retirees Association
817-271-1160
2408 Bailey Ct.
Cleburne, TX 76031

Payroll: 1-888-838-8955
Bulletin Board of Payroll Information

NAD Retirement Department
Fax: 301-680-6190
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600

Barbara Yowell: 301-680-6244
Lost checks, direct deposits, 1099R,
tax withholding, change of address,
verification of benefits for loans,
housing, Medicaid

Dolores Allen: 301-680-6249
General Retirement Office Information

Chris Meier: 301-680-6192
Reporting a death, disability reviews

(\$2,405 for 2009) and you will be responsible for paying 25% coinsurance.

- After you have incurred \$2,830 (\$2,700 for 2009) in prescription drug costs, Medicare will pay nothing and you will pay 100% until your prescription costs for the year reach \$6,440 (\$6,153.75 for 2009), at which point you will be out of pocket \$4,550 (\$4,350 for 2009). This gap in Medicare coverage is referred to as the “donut hole.”
- After you have reached the \$6,440 (\$6,153.75 for 2009) threshold, Medicare pays most of the cost of your drugs.
- Premiums are expected to be approximately \$30-\$50 per month for standard Medicare prescription drug plans. You should consult the Medicare prescription drug plans in your area for the exact premium amounts.

In making this comparison, please also consider the following: (1) Rx Option has no gap in coverage similar to Medicare’s “donut hole”; (2) Rx Option provides prescription drugs on the plan’s formulary in 2010 by you paying a co-pay of \$11 (generic) or \$22 (brand name) for a 30-day supply and a co-pay of \$25 (generic) or \$50 (brand name) for a 90-day supply; (3) many retirees receive an Earned Credit which assists them or fully pays for their SHARP Rx Option costs; and (4) the formulary used by the Medicare prescription drug plan may differ from the formulary for the Rx Option.

As stated above, if you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan, SHARP will drop your Rx Option (or not allow you to enroll in the Rx Option) and will not assist you with the premium you will pay to participate in a Medicare prescription drug plan. Although SHARP cannot state that in all cases its Rx Option prescription drug coverage is more advantageous than Medicare prescription

drug coverage, in most cases you will have better prescription drug coverage under SHARP Rx Option than under Medicare prescription drug coverage and you will not benefit from enrolling in Medicare prescription drug coverage. One situation in which Medicare Prescription drug coverage may be more advantageous is if you qualify as a low-income retiree. If you have received an application to apply for low-income Medicare prescription drug coverage, you should carefully review our plan and Medicare Prescription drug coverage and judge for yourself.

[When Will You Pay A Higher Premium \(Penalty\) To Join A Medicare Drug Plan?](#)

You also should know that if you drop or lose your coverage with SHARP’s Rx Option, and don’t enroll in Medicare prescription drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare prescription drug plan later.

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without prescription drug coverage that’s creditable coverage (at least as good as Medicare’s prescription drug coverage), your monthly premium for Medicare prescription drug coverage may go up at least 1% per month of the 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 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 November to enroll.

[For More Information About This Notice Or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage...](#)

Read the SHARP booklet carefully. Then, for further questions, contact our office (email and phone listed below) for further information regarding SHARP Rx Option. However, please note that our office cannot assist you with information about a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan. The SHARP booklet can be found online at: www.nadadventist.org/ret/RETdownload1.html

E-mail: SHARP@nad.adventist.org (preferred method).

SHARP Healthcare Enrollment: (301) 680-5036 (9-5 Monday-Thursday and 9-12 Fridays, Eastern Time).

NOTE: You will receive this notice every year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if the SHARP Rx Option coverage changes. You also may request a copy 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 available in the “Medicare & You” handbook. You’ll get a copy of the handbook every year in the mail from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare prescription 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.

For people with limited income and resources, extra help paying for a Medicare prescription drug plan 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).

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 whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).

Date:	September 1, 2009
Name of Entity/Sender:	Supplemental Healthcare, Adventist Retirement Plan
Contact—Position/Office:	Administrator
Address:	12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring MD 20904
Phone Number:	301-680-5036

General Conference of SDA
NAD Retirement Plans
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600

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Seeking Ambassadors of Hope

Many retirees have years of experience in various aspects of ministry. That is an incredibly valuable asset in building God's kingdom; and Hope Channel, the Seventh-day Adventist Church's official television network, is seeking qualified volunteers to help in several aspects of their rapidly growing ministry.

Maybe you can help coordinate a Hope Channel rally in your home town, answer viewers' Bible questions, attend Hope Channel events around the country, or even speak on behalf of Hope Channel on important topics such as Bible study, worship, health, finance, family life, evangelism, or other topics of interest to our viewers. You may even want to help your community find Hope by distributing literature directing them to "Go DIRECT to Hope," and find Hope Channel on DIRECTV channel 368. On average, one out of every six homes in the US has DIRECTV.

Hope Channel is growing rapidly because of God's blessing. There's just no other way to explain it. To go from broadcasting an occasional NET evangelistic meeting or church worker's seminar to 10 channels worldwide in five years is far beyond the capabilities of our small team of dedicated workers. Undeniably, God's hand is in all we do; and we invite you now to place your hand in His and consider how you can share the talents He's given you to help Hope Channel finish His work in this world.

To qualify, please send Hope Channel a note with a brief work history or resume, along with a letter of recommendation from a pastor or church employee, to Hope Channel, PO Box 4000, Silver Spring, MD 20914 or e-mail Marketing@HopeTV.org