

Medicare drug benefit (and therefore considered “creditable coverage”), then the beneficiary can continue to get prescription coverage from their current employer/union plan as well as avoid late enrollment penalties if they sign up later for the Medicare drug benefit. Generally, those with creditable coverage only need to sign up for a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan if they lose their creditable coverage or if the current or former employer/union plan notifies them that their coverage is no longer creditable.

Federal regulations require the State of Alaska, AlaskaCare plan to provide an annual notice of creditable drug coverage to beneficiaries who are now eligible for Medicare or those who will become eligible for Medicare during the next 12 months. **Because the October 2016 Health Matters newsletter serves as the AlaskaCare creditable drug coverage letter, be sure to save this newsletter for your records.**

If you have any questions about Medicare and/or how it coordinates with the AlaskaCare Retiree plan, contact Alaska’s Medicare Information Office at (907) 269-3680 or 1-800-478-6065 (toll-free from 907 area codes only).

Jeanné Larson, Lead Medicare Counselor
Medicare Information Office – Alaska SHIP/SMP
State of Alaska, DHSS/SDS

If anyone has additional questions concerning the recent Health Matters newsletter, please let me know.

Sharon Hoffbeck
President
Retired Public Employees of Alaska
sharonhoffbeck@gmail.com