

[New Deadline for Medicare Creditable Coverage Notice](#)

5-23-2011 by April A. Goff

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has posted new Medicare Part D model notices and moved up the deadline for delivering these notices. Sponsors of group health plans that provide prescription drug coverage are now required to notify Medicare eligible participants as to whether the plan's coverage is considered "creditable" by October 15.

Coverage is considered "creditable" if the actuarial value of the coverage equals or exceeds the actuarial value of standard prescription drug coverage under Medicare Part D. Essentially, the actuarial equivalence test measures whether the expected amount of paid claims under the entity's prescription drug coverage is at least as much as the expected amount of paid claims under the standard Medicare Part D benefits.

Whether your group health plan utilizes the model disclosure notices provided by CMS or a customized notice, you will need to review and update your notice. Revised model notices are available from CMS [here](#) in both Spanish and English.

If you have questions about the new Medicare Part D notices, please contact April A. Goff (agoff@wnj.com or at 616.752.2154) or any other member of the Employee Benefits Group at Warner Norcross & Judd.