

***What do I need to know to compare prescription drug plans?***

1. Find out which plans cover your medications
2. Find out the premium of each plan
3. Compare the costs of each drug for each plan
4. Find out pharmacy and mail order options for each plan
5. Compare the customer service ratings for each plan

***Where do I compare drug plans?***

- [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

***Where can I get more information?***

- Call 1-800-MEDICARE
- Your local Office for the Aging
- Your State Pharmaceutical Insurance Assistance Program



***Visit the CURxED website for additional information.***

At our website you will find:

- Drug Pricing for Part D plans
- Educational programming
- Reports on Part D Policy Details
- Plan and drug profiles
- Glossary of terms
- Acronyms
- Tip sheets
- And much more continually updated information!

<http://www.CURxED.human.cornell.edu>

Email: [CURxED@cornell.edu](mailto:CURxED@cornell.edu)

**CURxED Cornell University  
Resource Education for  
Medicare Part D**

For more information, visit or call:



**CURxED**

**Cornell University Resource  
Education for Medicare Part D  
COLLEGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY**



**MEDICARE PART D –  
UNDERSTANDING THE NEW  
PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE**

## ***What is a Medicare prescription drug plan?***

A prescription drug plan offers prescription drug coverage to Medicare beneficiaries who pay a small monthly premium to a private insurance company. The insurance company provides the coverage which is subsidized by the federal government.

## ***Am I eligible for a Part D plan?***

If you are eligible for, or enrolled in Medicare, then you are entitled to participate in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan. There are no income guidelines or limitations.

This includes:

- People aged 65 and older
- Some people with disabilities
- Medicaid enrollees



## ***Why do I want a Part D plan?***

If eligible, enrolling into a Part D plan may help you:

- Save money
- Get the most drug coverage
- Choose the best plan

## ***I already have a Medicare Part D Plan. Do I need to reconsider my choice?***

Yes, you should reconsider your prescription drug plan each year during the annual enrollment period. Plans change their characteristics and requirements each year. The medications you take may have also changed. It is a good idea to reevaluate to make the choice that best fits your medication regimen.

## ***When do I enroll?***

With premiums and drug prices changing every year, learning how to go through the process of selecting a plan will help you year after year when the **annual enrollment period** is offered.

The annual enrollment period is:  
**November 15 – December 31**

## ***What if enrollment is difficult?***

If you find that choosing a prescription drug plan is overwhelming and stressful, you are not alone. The structure of Medicare Part D is complex and enrolling into a prescription drug plan may be confusing. However, many resources are available to assist you in choosing a prescription drug plan.

## ***What happens if I do not enroll?***

If you have coverage at least as good as a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan, or creditable coverage, then you are not required to enroll. If you do not have creditable coverage, you will face a late enrollment penalty.

## ***How much will it cost?***

The standard plan offered includes a monthly premium, a small annual deductible, followed by an initial coverage zone, a gap in coverage, and finally, catastrophic coverage. The cost of your plan depends on many variables. Many people save as much as one half on the cost of their prescriptions!