

# The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## What is the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan?

Starting on January 1, 2025, the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan provides the option to people with Medicare prescription drug coverage to spread the costs of their prescription drugs over the calendar year rather than paying in full at the pharmacy counter or when they get a mail order delivery each time they fill a prescription.

## How does the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan work?

Anyone with Medicare prescription drug coverage will have the option to opt in to the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan at any time during the calendar year. The opportunity to opt in is not based on income and is completely voluntary. Once you have out-of-pocket prescription drug costs, you will be billed on a monthly basis.

You will receive a monthly bill as long as you fill prescriptions while remaining a part of the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan. Opting in to this payment option means you will no longer pay when you pick up your prescriptions at the pharmacy counter or receive your mail-order delivery at home. If you want to know what your drug will cost before you pick it up or have it delivered, call our Member Help Team at the number on the back of your member ID card or ask your pharmacist.

## How do I know if the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan will benefit me?

You are most likely to benefit from this payment option if you have high drug costs earlier in the year (January-September). "High drugs costs" can mean that you will spend more than \$600 out of pocket on a single prescription at the pharmacy counter or through mail order, or you will reach the 2025 Medicare annual out-of-pocket threshold of \$2,000.

This payment option **may not** be the best choice for you if:

- Your yearly drug costs are low or you are considering opting in later in the year (after September).
- You don't want to change how you pay for your drugs.
- You are enrolled in the Low-Income Subsidy ("Extra Help") program or the Medicare Savings Program from Medicare.
- You get help paying for your drugs from other organizations, like a State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program (SPAP), a coupon program, or other prescription drug coverage.

## Who can help me decide if I should participate in the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan?

If you are unsure if this payment option will benefit you, there are a few ways you can find out:

- **Independence Blue Cross (IBX):** Visit our website at [ibxmedicare.com/ira](https://ibxmedicare.com/ira), or call our Member Help Team at the number on the back of your member ID card for more information.
- **Medicare:** Visit [medicare.gov/prescription-payment-plan](https://medicare.gov/prescription-payment-plan) to learn more about this payment option and if it might be a good fit for you.
- **State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP):** Visit [shiphelp.org](https://shiphelp.org) to get the phone number for your local SHIP and get free, personalized health insurance counseling.

## Do I have to participate in the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan?

No, you are not required to opt in to this new payment option. Participation is voluntary and available to anyone with Medicare prescription drug coverage, and there is no additional cost to participate.

## How do I opt in to the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan?

To opt in, visit [ibxmedicare.com/ira](https://ibxmedicare.com/ira) to fill out our online election request form or call our Member Help Team at the number on the back of your member ID card. You can also download our paper form and mail it to:

Keystone 65 Rx or Personal Choice 65 Rx  
PO Box 7799  
Philadelphia, PA 19101-7799

## When can I opt in to the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan?

You can opt in at any time after October 15, 2024] However, starting earlier in the year is usually a better option. This is because as new out-of-pocket drug costs are added to your monthly payment, there are more months left in the year to spread out your payments.

## What happens after I opt in?

Once we review your opt-in request, you will receive a call and/or letter confirming your participation in this payment option. We will automatically let the pharmacy know you are participating, and you will not pay the pharmacy for your prescription drugs. You will get a monthly bill with the amount you owe for your prescriptions, when it is due, and information on how to make a payment. This is a separate bill from your monthly plan premium (if you have one).

## How do I know what my monthly payment will be?

Your monthly bill is based on what you would have paid for your prescriptions, plus your previous month's balance, divided by the number of months left in the year. Your payments might change every month, so you might not know what your exact bill will be ahead of time. Future payments might increase when you fill a new prescription or refill an existing prescription because as new out-of-pocket costs get added, there are fewer months left in the year to spread out your remaining payments.

You will never pay more than the total amount you would have paid out of pocket at the pharmacy if you weren't participating in this payment option or the Medicare annual out-of-pocket threshold (\$2,000 in 2025). Visit [ibxmedicare.com/ira](https://ibxmedicare.com/ira) for bill calculation examples. If you have billing questions, you can call our Member Help Team at the number on the back of your member ID card.

## How do I pay my bill?

After we approve your participation in this payment option, you'll get a letter from us with information about how to pay your bill. You can pay your bill online and by mail.

- **Online:** Visit [ibxmedicare.com/ira](https://ibxmedicare.com/ira).
- **Mail:** Send you payment to:

Optum Rx MPPP  
PO Box 67  
Minneapolis, MN 55480-0067

## What happens if I don't pay my bill?

You will get a reminder by mail from us if you miss a payment. If you do not pay your bill by the date listed in that reminder, you will be removed from the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan. You are required to pay only the amount you owe. You will not pay any interest or fees, even if your payment is late. You can choose to pay your balance all at once or monthly. If you are removed from the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan, you will remain enrolled in your Keystone 65 HMO/HMO-POS or Personal Choice 65 PPO plan. You may not be able to re-opt in to the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan again until your overdue balance is paid in full.

## How do I opt out if I choose to no longer participate?

You can opt out of the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan at any time by contacting us. Opting out will not affect your Medicare Advantage plan. If you still owe a balance, you are required to pay the amount you owe, even though you are no longer participating in this the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan.

## What happens if I change my Medicare Advantage plan?

If you leave your Keystone 65 HMO/HMO-POS or Personal Choice 65 PPO plan or change to a new Medicare Advantage plan with prescription drug coverage, your participation in the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan will end. You will need to contact your new plan to opt in to the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan through your new plan. You will still be responsible for any remaining balance due at the time of your disenrollment from Keystone 65 or Personal Choice 65.

## Will the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan save me money or lower my prescription drug costs?

No. Participating in this payment option won't save you money or lower your prescription drug costs. You will never pay more than the total amount you would have paid out of pocket at the pharmacy counter or when you would have received your mail-order delivery if you weren't participating in this payment option or the Medicare annual out-of-pocket threshold of \$2,000 in 2025.

## Where can I get more information on the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan?

There are a few ways you can get more information:

- **IBX:** Visit our website at [ibxmedicare.com/ira](https://ibxmedicare.com/ira), or call our Member Help Team at the number on the back of your member ID card.
- **Medicare:** Visit [medicare.gov/prescription-payment-plan](https://medicare.gov/prescription-payment-plan) or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

Independence Blue Cross offers products through its subsidiaries Independence Assurance Company, Independence Hospital Indemnity Plan, Keystone Health Plan East, and QCC Insurance Company — independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

