

Information about “Off Label Use” of Prescription Drugs under the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

You indicated that you take (or may take) a prescription medication for an “off label” use for a disease or condition which the medication was not originally approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage may NOT pay for some medications that are prescribed “off label.” It is important that you read the following information to know exactly how this may affect the cost of Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage for you.

Each prescription drug plan will cover different medications. It is important that you review the prescription drug plan options available in your region to ensure that you will be able to get all the medications that your doctor has prescribed for you.

- Some plans will cover medications for FDA-approved uses only.
- Other plans may require higher premiums and co-payments for certain medications prescribed off-label.

If the plan you wish to select does not cover some of your medications because they are prescribed to you “off label,” or if you cannot afford a higher cost plan that covers all your medications, you should talk with your doctor. He/she will help you to decide if you can switch to another medication that a plan does cover OR seek an “exception” so you can get all the medications you need.

Follow these steps to choose the best prescription drug plan for you:

- Make a list of the prescription drugs you use.
- Review ALL prescription drug plans available in your region. This process may take some time, but the information you will gather will help you choose the BEST plan for the medications you need. You can review plans at www.medicare.gov.
- Here are some questions you need to answer as you review each plan:
 - Are ALL your prescription drugs covered on the plan’s list of drugs (also called the "formulary")?
 - Which plan has the best premium and co-payment structure for your specific medications?
 - Is "prior authorization" required for coverage of any of your medications? If so, you will need to call each plan to learn exactly what they require you to do.
 - Are the plan's pharmacies conveniently located?
- **NEED HELP?** Ask your family members, friends, or your doctor or pharmacist for help in getting the information you need. Good information is available for you from patient advocacy and other organizations. Check out the website www.maprx.info for easy connections to these resources and tools to help you review and select the best coverage for you.