## **Information about**

## <u>Prescription Medications Used to Relieve Symptoms of a Cough or Cold that are Excluded from the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage</u>

You indicated that you take a prescription medication to treat cough and cold symptoms. The list below is a <u>sample</u> of some prescription cough and cold medications that may not be paid for by Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage. Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage will probably not pay for any prescription medications for cough and cold symptoms.

Brand Name
Bromfed Tablets and Syrup
Entex LA Tablets
Entex Liquid
Guaifed PD
Hycotuss
Kronofed A
Mytussin AC
Nasatab LA
Phenergan VC Syrup
Phenergan with Codeine
Polaramine Exp. Liquid
Prolex DH
Rondec Tablets and Syrup
Rynatan
Tussionex
Tussi-Organidin NR Liquid

Below are some options that may either reduce the cost or provide coverage for your medication that may be excluded from Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage:

- Generic drugs— If you take the brand-name drug for one of the excluded medications listed above, check with your physician or pharmacist to find out if a generic drug is available. Generic drugs are less expensive than brand-name drugs and can help you save money on medications that are not covered by Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage. A generic drug works like the brand-name drug in dosage, strength, performance and use, and must meet the same quality and safety standards. All generic drugs are reviewed and approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
- "Enhanced coverage plans" through Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage— Some Medicare Prescription Drug Plans may offer enhanced coverage. Your excluded medication may be paid for under the enhanced coverage. Please note that the premiums (monthly fees paid to the plan) for enhanced coverage plans may be higher than standard coverage plans.
- **Pharmaceutical company patient assistance programs**—These programs offered by some pharmaceutical companies provide medications at a very low cost based on a person's income and needs. The specific medication you take may or may not be

included in a pharmaceutical company patient assistance program. Check with the pharmaceutical company to find out if the excluded medication you take is available as part of their patient assistance program.

- **Pharmaceutical company discount cards**—Prescription cards that offer medications at a discounted price are available to qualified persons. The specific medication you take may or may not be included as part of a pharmaceutical company discount card program. Check with the pharmaceutical company to find out if the excluded medication you take is available as part of their discount card program.
- Other Options—The following programs may pay for some or all of the medications that are excluded from the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage. If you currently receive prescription benefits or assistance from any of the following programs, you may want to consider checking into whether the program will cover your excluded medications.
  - o Your State Medicaid Program
  - o Your State Pharmacy Assistance Program (if available in your state)
  - o **TRICARE** for retired military service members and their spouses
  - o CHAMPVA