

Creditable and Non-Creditable Coverage

Under regulations issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Medicare Part D-eligible individuals must be notified whether their current coverage is "creditable prescription drug coverage" each year. Following are definitions of creditable and non-creditable coverage:

- **Creditable coverage:** A health plan's prescription drug coverage is creditable when the amount the plan expects to pay, on average, for prescription drugs for individuals covered by the plan in the coming year is the same or more than what standard Medicare prescription drug coverage would be expected to pay.
- **Non-creditable coverage:** A health plan's prescription drug coverage is non-creditable when the amount the plan expects to pay, on average, for prescription drugs for individuals covered by the plan in the coming year is less than that which standard Medicare prescription drug coverage would be expected to pay.

Employers must notify Medicare-eligible members whether their current plan is or is not creditable prescription drug coverage by October 15. Members in Blue Shield plans that have been determined as creditable do not need to do anything if they're satisfied with the drug coverage they have through these plans.

Members in Blue Shield plans that have been determined to have coverage that is non-creditable may:

1. Do nothing and keep their current coverage. If they choose this option, they are not purchasing a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) and may incur further late enrollment penalties if they choose to purchase a Medicare PDP in the future. There are no forms to fill out for this choice. OR
2. Purchase a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) during the next annual Election Period. The late enrollment penalty will apply because the member's current plan is not creditable, and the employee did not choose to enroll in a Medicare PDP when they first became eligible. Within 63 days of enrolling in a Medicare PDP, employees must have the prescription drug coverage removed from their current plan per federal law

The list below denotes which Blue Shield of California plans offer creditable prescription drug coverage and which do not. Effective January 1, 2017.

Small Group - 2014 Plans

Plan Type	Creditable Plans	Non-Creditable Plans
Small Group		
HMO Plans	Platinum 90 HMO 0/20 Network 2 Mirror	N/A
	Platinum 90 HMO 0/20 Network 1 Mirror	
	Gold 80 HMO 0/35 Network 2 Mirror	
	Gold 80 HMO 0/35 Network 1 Mirror	
	Silver 70 HMO 1500/45 Network 2 Mirror	
	Silver 70 HMO 1500/45 Network 1 Mirror	
	Platinum Access+ HMO® 0/25 OffEx	
	Platinum Local Access+ HMO® 0/25 OffEx Platinum Trio ACO HMO 0/25 OffEx	
	Platinum Access+ HMO 0/20 OffEx Platinum Local Access+ HMO 0/20 OffEX Platinum Trio ACO HMO 0/20 OffEx Platinum Access+ HMO 0/30 OffEx Platinum Local Access+ HMO 0/30 OffEx Platinum Trio ACO HMO 0/30 OffEx Gold Access+ HMO® 750/30 OffEX Gold Local Access+ HMO® 750/30 OffEX Gold Trio ACO HMO 750/30 OffEx Gold Access+ HMO® 1700/30 OffEx Gold Local Access+ HMO® 1700/30 OffEx Gold Trio ACO HMO 1700/30 OffEx	
	Silver Access+ HMO® 1700/55 OffEx	
	Silver Local Access+ HMO® 1700/55 OffEx	
	Silver Trio ACO HMO 1700/55 OffEx	

Plan Type	Creditable Plans	Non-Creditable Plans
PPO		Bronze 60 PPO 6000/70 Mirror
	Platinum Full PPO 0/10 OffEx	
	Platinum Full PPO 150/15 OffEx	
	Gold Full PPO 0/20 OffEx	
	Gold Full PPO 250/20 OffEx Gold Full PPO 750/20 OffEx Gold Full PPO 1000/35 OffEx	
	Silver Full PPO 1250/40 OffEx	
	Silver Full PPO 1700/40 OffEx	
	Bronze Full PPO 3500/60 OffEx Bronze Full PPO 4500/45 OffEx	

Plan Type	Creditable Plans	Non-Creditable Plans
HSA	Silver Full PPO Savings HSA 2000/20% OffEx	
	Bronze Full PPO Savings 4500/30% OffEx	Bronze Full PPO Savings 5500/40% OffEx

Midsize and Large Group

Group	Creditable Plans	Non-Creditable Plans
Midsize & Large Group	All plans except those listed in the Non-Creditable Plans column.	All custom plans with a combined Rx/Medical deductible and out-of-pocket maximum must be certified individually.**

**Please contact your WISG Health & Benefits Account Manager for assistance with individual plan certification or if your plan is not listed above.