PIMA COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
150 WEST CONGRESS
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701
ALLYN BULZOMI, Director
Ph: 520/724-8464 * FAX: 520/724-8150

**THIS NOTICE DOES NOT APPLY TO YOU IF YOU OR YOUR DEPENDENTS ARE NOT CURRENTLY MEDICARE ELIGIBLE OR WILL NOT BECOME MEDICARE ELIGIBLE IN 2015 - 2016.**

## Important Notice from Pima County Human Resources About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) with & without HSA

**Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with Pima County and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether or not you want to join a Medicare drug plan. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.**

1. **Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or join a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO) that offers prescription drug coverage. All Medicare drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.**

2. **It has been determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by Pima County's Self-Funded Medical through the High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) is, on average for all plan participants, expected to payout as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is considered "Creditable Coverage".**

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**Because your existing coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.**

You can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15th through December 7th. This may mean that you may have to wait to join a Medicare drug plan and that you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you join later. You may pay that higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. However, if you lose creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will be eligible for a sixty (60) day Special Enrollment Period (SEP) because you lost creditable coverage to join a Part D plan*. In addition, if you lose or decide to leave employment, you will be eligible to join a Part D plan at that time using an Employer Group Special Enrollment Period.* You should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered at what cost, with the coverage and costs of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area.

**If you drop your Pima County coverage, be aware that you may not be able to get this coverage back.**

You should also know that if you drop or lose your coverage with Pima County and do not join a Medicare drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan later. If you go 63 continuous days or longer without prescription drug coverage that is at least as good as Medicare's prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

**For more information about this notice or your current prescription drug coverage…**

Contact one of the individuals listed below for further information. **NOTE:** This notice will be provided each year before the next period in which you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this coverage through Pima County changes. You also may request a copy.

**For more information about your options under Medicare prescription drug coverage…**

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is in the "Medicare & You" handbook. Medicare will send a copy of the handbook to you each year. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare drug plans.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:
• Visit www.medicare.gov
• Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of your copy of the "Medicare & You" handbook for their telephone number) for personalized help,
• Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048

If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

**Remember: Keep this Creditable Coverage notice. If you decide to join one of the Medicare drug plans, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show that you have maintained creditable coverage and, therefore, are not required to pay a higher premium amount (penalty).**

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| Date: | October 12, 2015 |
| Name of Entity/Sender: | Pima County |
| Contact—Position/Office: | Christine Simonini, HR Analyst-Benefits, Human Resources<br>Terri Morando, HR Supervisor, Human Resources |
| Address: | 150 W. Congress, 4th Floor, Tucson, AZ 85701 |
| Phone Number: | (520) 724-8464 |