

When Can You Join, Switch, or Drop a Medicare Drug Plan? (continued)

Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for more information. See pages 110–113 for the telephone number. You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). **TTY** users should call 1-877-486-2048.

How Do You Join?

Once you choose a Medicare drug plan, you may be able to join by completing a paper application, calling the plan, or enrolling on the plan's Web site or on www.medicare.gov. You can also enroll by calling 1-800-MEDICARE. **Medicare drug plans aren't allowed to call you to enroll you in a plan. Call 1-800-MEDICARE to report a plan that does this.**

Contact the plan to find out how you can join. When you join a Medicare drug plan, you will have to provide your Medicare number and the date your Part A or Part B coverage started. This information is on your Medicare card. **Visit www.medicare.gov, or call 1-800-MEDICARE for a list of the [Medicare plans](#) in your area.**

How Do You Switch?

Depending on your circumstances, you can switch to a new Medicare drug plan simply by joining another drug plan during one of the times listed on page 63. **You don't need to cancel your old Medicare drug plan or send them anything.** Your old Medicare drug plan coverage will end when your new drug plan begins. You should get a letter from your new Medicare drug plan telling you when your coverage begins.

After you join a Medicare drug plan, the plan will mail you membership materials, including a card to use when you get your prescriptions filled.

Note: If your Medicare Prescription Drug Plan decides not to participate in Medicare or stops providing service in your area, your plan will send you a letter about your options. You will have the opportunity to join a different Medicare Prescription Drug Plan. If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan with prescription drug coverage, see page 59 for more information.

Blue words in the text are defined on pages 115–118.