City of Newport, Rhode Island

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
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RE: MEDICARE Plan D Open Enrollment

Dear City Health Plan Participant:

Annually, around this time, you will receive a letter from our office notifying you of the annual *Open Enrollment* period for Medicare health and drug plans which will begin on October 15, 2020 and continue until December 7, 2020. However, because you are already receiving a more superior prescription drug plan through the City of Newport, you may wish NOT to purchase a Medicare Part D plan during this coming Open Enrollment period.

The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 requires all employers that offer prescription drug coverage to notify employees and retirees who are Medicare eligible, or who may be Medicare eligible, as to the value of the current prescription drug benefit compared to that of the *optional* Medicare Part D drug benefit that went into effect on January 1, 2006.

This is to inform you that **all of the health plans that the City of Newport offers have prescription drug benefits that are at least as good as the standard Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit, and these plans are considered to be "creditable coverage"**. This statement is based on reviews performed by qualified actuaries of the prescription drug benefits and spending by the City on each health plan compared to what Medicare would pay in 2020. Therefore, **if you plan to continue to be covered under the City of Newport's health benefits plans, you do not need to purchase Medicare Part D.** If in the future you should want to purchase Part D for whatever reason, because you are covered by a plan that has benefits as good as or better than Part D benefits, you would not be charged the Part D late enrollment premium penalty.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has published their **2021 *Medicare & You* handbook**. This is an exceptional and official source of information aimed to answer your Medicare questions. Many receive this handbook in the mail annually; however, you can also download the 124 page document by visiting the City of Newport's website at www.cityofnewport.com (Human Resources/Employee Healthcare/Senior Healthcare). For more information about Medicare Part D, please visit their web site at: www.medicare.gov or feel free to contact our office at (401) 845-5444.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Coury
Director of Human Resources

Enclosures