Sheet Metal Workers Local 268 Welfare Plan
Notice of Creditable Coverage and
Information about Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with Sheet Metal Workers Local 268 Welfare Plan 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. If you are considering joining, 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. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.

There are two important things you need to know about your current coverage and Medicare prescription drug coverage:

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. **Sheet Metal Workers Local 268 Welfare Plan has determined that the prescription drug coverage it offers is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays. It is considered Creditable Coverage.** 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. However, if you lose creditable prescription drug coverage through no fault of your own, you will be eligible for a two month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Part D plan.

Effect of Enrolling in Medicare Prescription Drug Program

You should compare your current coverage, including which medications are covered, with the coverage and cost of the Medicare plans in your area.

If you do not enroll for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage you will continue to receive current benefits under the Sheet Metal Workers Local 268 Welfare Plan (as long as payments are made and you are otherwise eligible to continue Plan coverage). The Sheet Metal Workers Local 268 Welfare Plan also provides medical and other benefits, in addition to prescription drug benefits. You will continue to receive all current benefits for which you are eligible if you remain in this plan.

If you enroll for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage you cannot have another plan that provides creditable coverage. In addition, you will not be eligible to receive all of your current health coverage if you enroll in a Medicare Prescription Drug Program. You should carefully consider whether enrolling in a Medicare prescription drug program is worth the cost to you.

Effect of Losing Coverage Under Welfare Plan

If you drop or lose your coverage with Sheet Metal Workers Local 268 Welfare Plan and don't 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 creditable 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 the Fund Office for further information at (618) 397-1443. NOTE: You'll get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this coverage 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 available in the "Medicare & You" handbook. You'll get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare prescription drug plans. You can also get more information about Medicare prescription drug plans from these places:

- 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)
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

For people with limited income and resources, extra help paying for a Medicare prescription drug plan is available. For more information about this extra help, visit SSA online at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

KEEP THIS 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 whether or not you have maintained creditable coverage and whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).

Date:	Revised 10/1/2025
Name of Entity/Sender:	Sheet Metal Workers Local 268 Welfare Plan
Contact--Position/Office:	The Fund Office
Address:	2701 North 89th Street, Caseyville, IL 62232
Phone Number:	618-397-1443

Full details of the Sheet Metal Workers Local 268 Welfare Plan ("Plan") are contained in the documents that establish the Plan provisions. If there is a discrepancy between the wording here and the documents that establish the Plan, the Plan language will govern. The Trustees of the Plan reserve the right to amend, modify, or discontinue all or part of the Plan at any time.