

LINET BASICS

Special Program to Get Prescriptions Filled at Low Cost



Are You Paying Full Price for Your Prescriptions?

If you've been getting your prescriptions at no cost, you might be surprised to find yourself suddenly paying full price at the pharmacy. This often happens when someone who previously had prescription coverage through Medi-Cal becomes eligible for Medicare. Prescription coverage must come from Medicare instead. Medi-Cal will stop providing free prescription coverage, even if you would prefer to keep it.

About Medicare Prescription Coverage:

To get Medicare prescription coverage, you need to join a plan with drug benefits—this could be either a stand-alone drug plan or a Medicare Advantage plan that includes drug coverage. Everyone must typically pay a small co-pay for their medications.



There is a program called Extra Help that significantly lowers the cost of prescription coverage under Medicare. If you previously had Medi-Cal prescription coverage, you are automatically eligible for Extra Help. New Medicare beneficiaries might qualify too, but some will need to apply. HICAP can help with this process.

When moving from only Medi-Cal to having both Medi-Cal and Medicare, it can take a few months for Medicare to update your records and enroll you in a drug plan.

What if you need to fill your prescriptions while you wait?

The Limited Income-Newly Eligible Transition (LINET) program helps individuals who need prescription medications prior to enrolling in a Medicare drug plan. It is available to those who have full Medi-Cal benefits or have qualified for Extra Help through other avenues, and do not yet have Medicare drug coverage. LINET allows beneficiaries to obtain prescriptions from any pharmacy, ensuring that costs do not exceed the applicable Extra Help co-payment (\$1.⁶⁰ per month for generic drugs; \$4.⁹⁰ per month for brand-name drugs in 2026). Retroactive coverage is also available from the date of eligibility for individuals who paid the full price at the pharmacy. For further support, contact LINET directly or consult with HICAP.

What do you need?



1. Provide written proof of eligibility for the low-income program, such as a Medi-Cal Notice of Action. If not available, HICAP can help obtain documentation from Medi-Cal. Send "Best Available Evidence" to LINET by fax at (877) 210-5592; pharmacies usually assist with this.

2. Along with your prescription, give your birth date, zip code, and Medicare number. If you do not have your Medicare card, call Medicare at (800) 633-4227 or ask HICAP to help get your number.

3. Inform pharmacy staff you are new to Medicare and want to use LINET for prescriptions. Not all pharmacies know this program, but LINET agents can help. The LINET contact number is (800) 783-1307—show the pharmacist this note if needed.



Contra Costa County Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP)

Contact Us: 925-655-1393, (800) 510-2020 or (800) 434-0222

Visit: www.cchicap.org then 'Contact Us' Email: ehsdhicap@ehsd.cccounty.us



Navigating Medicare



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