



Blue MedicareRx Plus

Prescription drug coverage available in all Kansas counties.

Effective from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

Blue MedicareRx Plus (PDP) offered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas or Blue KC

Annual Notice of Changes for 2025

You are currently enrolled as a member of Blue MedicareRx Plus (PDP). Next year, there will be changes to the plan's costs and benefits. *Please see page 3 for a Summary of Important Costs, including Premium.*

This document tells about the changes to your plan. To get more information about costs, benefits, or rules please review the *Evidence of Coverage*, which is located on our website at www.bcbsks.com/PDPwelcome. You may also call Customer Service to ask us to mail you an *Evidence of Coverage*.

• You have from October 15 until December 7 to make changes to your Medicare coverage for next year.

What to do now

1.	ASK: Which changes apply to you
	Check the changes to our benefits and costs to see if they affect you.
	• Review the changes to our drug coverage, including coverage restrictions and cost sharing.
	• Think about how much you will spend on premiums, deductibles, and cost sharing.
	• Check the changes in the 2025 "Drug List" to make sure the drugs you currently take are still covered.
	• Compare the 2024 and 2025 plan information to see if any of the drugs you take move to a different cost-sharing tier or will be subject to different restrictions, such as prior authorization, step therapy, or a quantity limit for 2025.
	Check if you qualify for help paying for prescription drugs. People with limited incomes may qualify for "Extra Help" from Medicare.
	Think about whether you are happy with our plan.

2. COMPARE: Learn about other plan choices

Check coverage and costs of plans in your area. Use the Medicare Plan Finder at the
www.medicare.gov/plan-compare website or review the list in the back of your
Medicare & You 2025 handbook. For additional support, contact your State Health
Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) to speak with a trained counselor.

Once you narrow your choice to a preferred plan, confirm your costs and coverage on the plan's website.

- 3. CHOOSE: Decide whether you want to change your plan
 - If you don't join another plan by December 7, 2024, you will stay in Blue MedicareRx Plus (PDP).
 - To change to a **different plan**, you can switch plans between October 15 and December 7. Your new coverage will start on **January 1**, **2025**. This will end your enrollment with Blue MedicareRx Plus (PDP).

Additional Resources

- Please contact our Customer Services number at 866-421-5077 for additional information. (TTY users should call (711).) Hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) from October 1 through March 31, and Monday to Friday (except holidays) from April 1 through September 30. This call is free.
- This document is available to order in braille, large print, audio.

About Blue MedicareRx Plus (PDP)

- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) is a PDP plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in BCBSKS depends on contract renewal.
- When this document says "we," "us," or "our," it means Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas or Blue KC. When it says "plan" or "our plan," it means Blue MedicareRx Plus (PDP).

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Summary of Important Costs for 2025

The table below compares the 2024 costs and 2025 costs for Blue MedicareRx Plus (PDP) in several important areas. **Please note this is only a summary of costs**.

Cost	2024 (this year)	2025 (next year)
Monthly plan premium* *Your premium may be higher or lower than this amount. See Section 1.1 for details.	\$70.10	\$61.60
Part D prescription drug coverage (See Section 1.3 for details.)	Deductible: \$0 except for covered insulin products and most adult Part D vaccines.	Deductible: \$0 except for covered insulin products and most adult Part D vaccines.
	Copays or Coinsurance during the initial coverage stage:	Copays or Coinsurance during the initial coverage stage:
	• Drug Tier 1: Standard: \$19 Preferred: \$1 (30-day supply at retail network pharmacies that offer preferred cost sharing)	• Drug Tier 1: Standard: \$5 Preferred: \$0 (30-day supply at retail network pharmacies that offer preferred cost sharing)
	• Drug Tier 2: Standard: \$20 Preferred: \$4 (30-day supply at retail network pharmacies that offer preferred cost sharing)	• Drug Tier 2: Standard: \$7 Preferred: \$0 (30-day supply at retail network pharmacies that offer preferred cost sharing)

Cost	2024 (this year)	2025 (next year)
	• Drug Tier 3: Standard: \$47 Preferred: \$47	• Drug Tier 3: Standard: 25% Preferred: 20% (30-day supply at retail network pharmacies that offer preferred cost sharing)
	• Drug Tier 4: Standard: 50% Preferred: 50% (30-day supply at retail network pharmacies that offer preferred cost sharing)	• Drug Tier 4: Standard: 50% Preferred: 40% (30-day supply at retail network pharmacies that offer preferred cost sharing)
	• Drug Tier 5: Standard: 33% Preferred: 33% (30-day supply at retail network pharmacies that offer preferred cost sharing)	• Drug Tier 5: Standard: 33% Preferred: 33% (30-day supply at retail network pharmacies that offer preferred cost sharing)
	 Catastrophic Coverage: During this payment stage, the plan pays the full cost for your covered Part D drugs. You pay nothing. For each prescription, you pay whichever of these is larger: a payment equal to 5% of the cost of the drug (this 	Catastrophic Coverage: • During this payment stage, the plan pays the full cost for your covered Part D drugs. You pay nothing.

Cost	2024 (this year	2025 (next year)
	is called coinsura	ance),
	or a copayment ((\$4.15
	for a generic dru	g or a
	drug that is treate	ed like
	a generic, and \$1	10.35
	for all other drug	gs.)
	_	

SECTION 1 Changes to Benefits and Costs for Next Year

Section 1.1 – Changes to the Monthly Premium

Cost	2024 (this year)	2025 (next year)
Monthly premium (You must also continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium unless it is paid for you by Medicaid.)	\$70.10	\$61.60

- Your monthly plan premium will be more if you are required to pay a lifetime Part D late enrollment penalty for going without other drug coverage that is at least as good as Medicare drug coverage (also referred to as creditable coverage) for 63 days or more.
- If you have a higher income, you may have to pay an additional amount each month directly to the government for your Medicare prescription drug coverage.
- Your monthly premium will be *less* if you are receiving "Extra Help" with your prescription drug costs. Please see Section 6 regarding "Extra Help" from Medicare.

Section 1.2 - Changes to the Pharmacy Network

Amounts you pay for your prescription drugs may depend on which pharmacy you use. Medicare drug plans have a network of pharmacies. In most cases, your prescriptions are covered *only* if they are filled at one of our network pharmacies. Our network includes pharmacies with preferred cost sharing, which may offer you lower cost sharing than the standard cost sharing offered by other network pharmacies for some drugs.

There are changes to our network of pharmacies for next year.

An updated *Pharmacy Directory* is located on our website at www.bcbsks.com/PDPwelcome. You may also call Customer Service for updated provider information or to ask us to mail you a *Pharmacy Directory*. **Please review the 2025** *Pharmacy Directory*www.bcbsks.com/PDPwelcome to see which pharmacies are in our network.

It is important that you know that we may make changes to the pharmacies that are part of your plan during the year. If a mid-year change in our pharmacies affects you, please contact Customer Service so we may assist.

Section 1.3 - Changes to Part D Prescription Drug Coverage

Changes to Our Drug List

Our list of covered drugs is called a Formulary or Drug List. A copy of our Drug List is provided electronically.

We made changes to our Drug List, which could include removing or adding drugs, changing the restrictions that apply to our coverage for certain drugs or moving them to a different cost-sharing tier. Review the Drug List to make sure your drugs will be covered next year and to see if there will be any restrictions, or if your drug has been moved to a different cost-sharing tier.

Most of the changes in the Drug List are new for the beginning of each year. However, we might make other changes that are allowed by Medicare rules that will affect you during the plan year. We update our online Drug List at least monthly to provide the most up-to-date list of drugs. If we make a change that will affect your access to a drug you are taking, we will send you a notice about the change.

If you are affected by a change in drug coverage at the beginning of the year or during the year, please review Chapter 7 of your *Evidence of Coverage* and talk to your doctor to find out your options, such as asking for a temporary supply, applying for an exception and/or working to find a new drug. You can also contact Customer Service for more information.

We currently can immediately remove a brand name drug on our Drug List if we replace it with a new generic drug version on the same or a lower cost-sharing tier and with the same or fewer restrictions as the brand name drug it replaces. Also, when adding a new generic, we may also decide to keep the brand name drug on our Drug List, but immediately move it to a different cost-sharing tier or add new restrictions or both.

Starting in 2025, we can immediately replace original biological products with certain biosimilars. This means, for instance, if you are taking an original biological product that is being replaced by a biosimilar, you may not get notice of the change 30 days before we make it or get a month's supply of your original biological product at a network pharmacy. If you are taking the original biological product at the time we make the change, you will still get information on the specific change we made, but it may arrive after we make the change.

Some of these drug types may be new to you. For definitions of drug types, please see Chapter 12 of your *Evidence of Coverage*. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) also provides consumer information on drugs. See FDA website:

https://www.fda.gov/drugs/biosimilars/multimedia-education-materials-biosimilars#For%20Patients. You may also contact Customer Services or ask your health care provider, prescriber, or pharmacist for more information.

Changes to Prescription Drug Benefits and Costs

Note: If you are in a program that helps pay for your drugs ("Extra Help"), the information about costs for Part D prescription drugs may not apply to you. We sent you a separate insert, called the *Evidence of Coverage Rider for People Who Get "Extra Help" Paying for Prescription Drugs* (also called the *Low-Income Subsidy Rider* or the *LIS Rider*), which tells you about your drug costs. If you receive "Extra Help" and you haven't received this insert by September 30, 2024, please call Customer Service and ask for the *LIS Rider*.

Beginning in 2025, there are three **drug payment stages:** the Yearly Deductible Stage, the Initial Coverage Stage, and the Catastrophic Coverage Stage. The Coverage Gap Stage and the Coverage Gap Discount Program will no longer exist in the Part D benefit.

The Coverage Gap Discount Program will also be replaced by the Manufacturer Discount Program. Under the Manufacturer Discount Program, drug manufacturers pay a portion of the plan's full cost for covered Part D brand name drugs and biologics during the Initial Coverage Stage and the Catastrophic Coverage Stage. Discounts paid by manufacturers under the Manufacturer Discount Program do not count toward out-of-pocket costs.

Important Message About What You Pay for Vaccines - Our plan covers most Part D vaccines at no cost to you. Call Customer Services for more information.

Changes to the Deductible Stage

Stage	2024 (this year)	2025 (next year)
Stage 1: Yearly Deductible Stage	The Deductible is \$0	The Deductible is \$0

Changes to Your Cost Sharing in the Initial Coverage Stage

For drugs on Preferred Brand, your cost sharing in the initial coverage stage is changing from a copayment to coinsurance. Please see the following chart for the changes from 2024 to 2025.

Stage	2024 (this year)	2025 (next year)
Stage 2: Initial Coverage Stage	The number of days in a onemonth supply is 30:	The number of days in a onemonth supply is 30:
During this stage, the plan pays its share of the cost of your drugs and you pay your share of the cost. Most adult Part D vaccines	Tier 1 - Preferred Generic: Standard cost sharing: You pay \$19 per prescription Preferred cost sharing:	Tier 1 - Preferred Generic: Your cost for a one-month supply is: Standard cost sharing: \$5
are covered at no cost to you.	You pay \$1 per prescription Tier 2 - Generic:	Preferred cost sharing: \$0 Tier 2 - Generic:
	You pay \$20 per prescription Preferred cost sharing: You pay \$4 per prescription	Your cost for a one-month supply is: Standard cost sharing: \$7
	Tier 3 - Preferred Brand: Standard cost sharing: You pay \$47 per prescription	Preferred cost sharing: \$0 Tier 3 - Preferred Brand:
	You pay \$35 per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier. Preferred cost sharing:	Your cost for a one-month supply is: Standard cost sharing:25% of the total cost You pay \$35 per month supply
	You pay \$47 per prescription Tier 4 - Non-Preferred Drug: Standard cost sharing:	of each covered insulin product on this tier. Preferred cost sharing: 20% of the total cost
	You pay \$50% of the total cost You pay \$35 per month supply of each covered insulin product on this tier.	Tier 4 - Non-Preferred Drug: Your cost for a one-month
	Preferred cost sharing: You pay 50% of the total cost	supply is: Standard cost sharing: 50% of the total cost
	Tier 5 - Specialty Tier:	

C.	2024 (41:	2025 (
Stage	2024 (this year)	2025 (next year)
	Standard cost sharing:	You pay \$35 per month supply
	You pay 33% of the total cost	of each covered insulin product
	Preferred cost sharing:	on this tier.
	You pay 33% of the total cost	Preferred cost sharing: 40% of
		the total cost
		Tier 5 - Specialty Tier:
		Your cost for a one-month supply is:
		Standard cost sharing: 33% of the total cost
		Preferred cost sharing: 33% of
		the total cost
		Once you have paid \$2,000 out-of-pocket for Part D drugs, you will move to the next stage (the Catastrophic Coverage
		Stage).

Changes to the Catastrophic Coverage Stage

The Catastrophic Coverage Stage is the third and final stage. Beginning in 2025, drug manufacturers pay a portion of the plan's full cost for covered Part D brand name drugs and biologics during the Catastrophic Coverage Stage. Discounts paid by manufacturers under the Manufacturer Discount Program do not count toward out-of-pocket costs.

For specific information about your costs in the Catastrophic Coverage Stage, look at Chapter 4, Section 6 in your *Evidence of Coverage*.

SECTION 2 Administrative Changes

Cost	2024 (this year)	2025 (next year)
Medicare Prescription Payment Plan	Not Applicable	The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan is a new payment option that works with your current drug coverage, and it can help you manage your drug costs by spreading them across monthly payments that vary throughout the year (January - December). To learn more about this payment option, please contact us at 1- 833-696- 2087 or visit Medicare.gov.

SECTION 3 Deciding Which Plan to Choose

Section 3.1 – If You Want to Stay inBlue MedicareRx Plus (PDP)

To stay in our plan, you don't need to do anything. If you do not sign up for a different plan by December 7, you will automatically be enrolled in our Blue MedicareRx Plus (PDP).

Section 3.2 - If You Want to Change Plans

We hope to keep you as a member next year but if you want to change plans for 2025 follow these steps:

Step 1: Learn about and compare your choices

- You can join a different Medicare prescription drug plan,
- OR You can change to a Medicare health plan. Some Medicare health plans also include Part D prescription drug coverage,
- - OR You can keep your current Medicare health coverage and drop your Medicare prescription drug coverage.

To learn more about Original Medicare and the different types of Medicare plans, use the Medicare Plan Finder (www.medicare.gov/plan-compare), read the *Medicare & You 2025* handbook, call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see Section 5), or call Medicare (see Section 7.2).

As a reminder, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas or Blue KCoffers other Medicare prescription drug plans. These other plans may differ in coverage, monthly premiums, and costsharing amounts.

Step 2: Change your coverage

- To **change to a different Medicare prescription drug plan**, enroll in the new plan. You will automatically be disenrolled from Blue MedicareRx Plus (PDP).
- To **change to a Medicare health plan**, enroll in the new plan. Depending on which type of plan you choose, you may automatically be disenrolled from Blue MedicareRx Plus (PDP).
 - O You will automatically be disenrolled from Blue MedicareRx Plus (PDP) if you enroll in any Medicare health plan that includes Part D prescription drug coverage. You will also automatically be disenrolled if you join a Medicare Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) or Medicare Preferred Provider Organization (PPO), even if that plan does not include prescription drug coverage.
 - If you choose a Private Fee-For-Service plan without Part D drug coverage, a
 Medicare Medical Savings Account plan, or a Medicare Cost Plan, you can enroll in
 that new plan and keep Blue MedicareRx Plus (PDP) for your drug coverage.
 Enrolling in one of these plan types will not automatically disenroll you from Blue
 MedicareRx Plus (PDP). If you are enrolling in this plan type and want to leave our

plan, you must ask to be disenrolled from Blue MedicareRx Plus (PDP). To ask to be disenrolled, you must send us a written request or contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048).

- To change to Original Medicare without a prescription drug plan, you must either:
 - Send us a written request to disenroll. Contact Customer Service if you need more information on how to do so.
 - OR Contact Medicare, at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and ask to be disenrolled. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

SECTION 4 Deadline for Changing Plans

If you want to change to a different prescription drug plan or to a Medicare health plan for next year, you can do it from **October 15 until December 7.** The change will take effect on January 1, 2025.

Are there other times of the year to make a change?

In certain situations, changes are also allowed at other times of the year. Examples include people with Medicaid, those who get "Extra Help" paying for their drugs, those who have or are leaving employer coverage, and those who move out of the service area.

If you recently moved into or, currently live in an institution (like a skilled nursing facility or long-term care hospital), you can change your Medicare coverage **at any time**. You can change to any other Medicare health plan (either with or without Medicare prescription drug coverage) or switch to Original Medicare (either with or without a separate Medicare prescription drug plan) at any time. If you recently moved out of an institution, you have an opportunity to switch plans or switch to Original Medicare for two full months after the month you move out.

SECTION 5 Programs That Offer Free Counseling about Medicare

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is an independent government program with trained counselors in every state. In Kansas, the SHIP is called Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK).

It is a state program that gets money from the Federal government to give **free** local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare. Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK) counselors can help you with your Medicare questions or problems. They can help you understand your Medicare plan choices and answer questions about switching plans. You can call Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK) at 1-800-860-5260.

SECTION 6 Programs That Help Pay for Prescription Drugs

You may qualify for help paying for prescription drugs. Below we list different kinds of help:

- "Extra Help" from Medicare. People with limited incomes may qualify for "Extra Help" to pay for their prescription drug costs. If you qualify, Medicare could pay up to 75% or more of your drug costs including monthly prescription drug premiums, yearly deductibles, and coinsurance. Additionally, those who qualify will not have a late enrollment penalty. To see if you qualify, call:
 - 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week;
 - The Social Security Office at 1-800-772-1213 between 8 am and 7 pm, Monday through Friday for a representative. Automated messages are available 24 hours a day. TTY users should call, 1-800-325-0778; or
 - Your State Medicaid Office.
- Prescription Cost-sharing Assistance for Persons with HIV/AIDS. The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) helps ensure that ADAP-eligible individuals living with HIV/AIDS have access to life-saving HIV medications. To be eligible for the ADAP operating in your State, individuals must meet certain criteria, including proof of State residence and HIV status, low income as defined by the State, and uninsured/under-insured status. Medicare Part D prescription drugs that are also covered by ADAP qualify for prescription cost-sharing assistance through the Kansas Ryan White Part B Program. For information on eligibility criteria, covered drugs, how to enroll in the program or if you are currently enrolled how to continue receiving assistance, call 1-785-296-6174. Be sure, when calling, to inform them of your Medicare Part D plan name or policy number.
- The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan. The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan is a new payment option to help you manage your out-of-pocket drug costs, starting in 2025. This new payment option works with your current drug coverage, and it can help you manage your drug costs by spreading them across monthly payments that vary throughout the year (January December). This payment option might help you

manage your expenses, but it doesn't save you money or lower your drug costs.

"Extra Help" from Medicare and help from your SPAP and ADAP, for those who qualify, is more advantageous than participation in the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan. All members are eligible to participate in this payment option, regardless of income level, and all Medicare drug plans and Medicare health plans with drug coverage must offer this payment option. To learn more about this payment option, please contact us at 1-833-696-2087 or visit Medicare.gov.

SECTION 7 Questions?

Section 7.1 – Getting Help from Blue MedicareRx Plus (PDP)

Questions? We're here to help. Please call Customer Service at 1-866-421-5077. (TTY only, call (711)). We are available for phone calls from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) from October 1 through March 31, and Monday to Friday (except holidays) from April 1 through September 30. Calls to these numbers are free.

Read your 2025 Evidence of Coverage (it has details about next year's benefits and costs)

This Annual Notice of Changes gives you a summary of changes in your benefits and costs for 2025. For details, look in the 2025 Evidence of Coverage for Blue MedicareRx Plus (PDP). The Evidence of Coverage is the legal, detailed description of your plan benefits. It explains your rights and the rules you need to follow to get covered services and prescription drugs. A copy of the Evidence of Coverage is located on our website at www.bcbsks.com/PDPwelcome You may also call Customer Service to ask us to mail you an Evidence of Coverage.

Visit our Website

You can also visit our website at <u>www.bcbsks.com/PDPwelcome</u>. As a reminder, our website has the most up-to-date information about our pharmacy network (*Pharmacy Directory*) and our *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary/Drug List)*.

Section 7.2 – Getting Help from Medicare

To get information directly from Medicare:

Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)

You can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Visit the Medicare Website

Visit the Medicare website (<u>www.medicare.gov</u>). It has information about cost, coverage, and quality Star Ratings to help you compare Medicare prescription drug plans in your area. To view the information about plans, go to <u>www.medicare.gov/plan-compare</u>.

Read Medicare & You 2025

Read the *Medicare & You 2025* handbook. Every fall, this document is mailed to people with Medicare. It has a summary of Medicare benefits, rights and protections, and answers to the most frequently asked questions about Medicare. If you don't have a copy of this document, you can get it at the Medicare website (https://www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/10050-medicare-and-you.pdf) or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

You can access your plan documents online.

Beginning on October 15, 2023, you can access your important plan documents online two different ways:

- 1. Log in to or register for your secure online account at www.bcbsks.com/PDPwelcome.
- 2. If you don't have a secure online account, visit www.bcbsks.com/medicare and type in your ZIP Code. Find your plan and select plan documents.

Plan documents available on October 15, 2023:



Evidence of Coverage: For complete details about your coverage and costs.

 Access your Evidence of Coverage at www.bcbsks.com/PDPwelcome



Formulary: For a list of prescriptions that are covered under your plan.

• Access your formulary at www.bcbsks.com/PDPwelcome



Pharmacy Directory: To find a pharmacy.

• Access your pharmacy directory at www.bcbsks.com/PDPwelcome

If you need help or want these documents mailed to you, please call us at 1-866-421-5077 (TTY: (711)).





866-452-9619 (TTY: 711)

bcbsks.com/PDPwelcome

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