

CHAPTER 8

Ending your membership in the plan

Chapter 8. Ending your membership in the plan

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SECTION 1 Introduction

Section 1.1	This chapter focuses on ending your membership in our plan
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Ending your membership in BlueMedicare Value Rx (PDP) may be **voluntary** (your own choice) or **involuntary** (not your own choice):

- You might leave our plan because you have decided that you *want* to leave.
 - There are only certain times during the year, or certain situations, when you may voluntarily end your membership in the plan. Section 2 tells you *when* you can end your membership in the plan.
 - The process for voluntarily ending your membership varies depending on what type of new coverage you are choosing. Section 3 tells you *how* to end your membership in each situation.
- There are also limited situations where you do not choose to leave, but we are required to end your membership. Section 5 tells you about situations when we must end your membership.

If you are leaving our plan, you must continue to get your Part D prescription drugs through our plan until your membership ends.

SECTION 2 When can you end your membership in our plan?

You may end your membership in our plan only during certain times of the year, known as enrollment periods. All members have the opportunity to leave the plan during the Annual Enrollment Period. In certain situations, you may also be eligible to leave the plan at other times of the year.

Section 2.1	You can end your membership during the Annual Enrollment Period
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You can end your membership during the **Annual Enrollment Period** (also known as the “Annual Open Enrollment Period”). This is the time when you should review your health and drug coverage and make a decision about your coverage for the upcoming year.

- **When is the Annual Enrollment Period?** This happens from October 15 to December 7.
- **What type of plan can you switch to during the Annual Enrollment Period?** You can choose to keep your current coverage or make changes to your coverage for the

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upcoming year. If you decide to change to a new plan, you can choose any of the following types of plans:

- Another Medicare prescription drug plan.
- Original Medicare *without* a separate Medicare prescription drug plan.
 - **If you receive “Extra Help” from Medicare to pay for your prescription drugs:** If you do not enroll in a separate Medicare prescription drug plan, Medicare may enroll you in a drug plan, unless you have opted out of automatic enrollment.
- – *or* – A Medicare health plan. A Medicare health plan is a plan offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide all of the Medicare Part A (Hospital) and Part B (Medical) benefits. Some Medicare health plans also include Part D prescription drug coverage.
 - If you enroll in most Medicare health plans, you will be disenrolled from BlueMedicare Value Rx (PDP) when your new plan’s coverage begins. However, 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 plan and keep BlueMedicare Value Rx (PDP) for your drug coverage. If you do not want to keep our plan, you can choose to enroll in another Medicare prescription drug plan or drop Medicare prescription drug coverage.

Note: If you disenroll from Medicare prescription drug coverage and go without creditable prescription drug coverage for 63 or more days in a row, you may have to pay a late enrollment penalty if you join a Medicare drug plan later. (“Creditable” coverage means the coverage is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare’s standard prescription drug coverage.) See Chapter 1, Section 5 for more information about the late enrollment penalty.

- **When will your membership end?** Your membership will end when your new plan’s coverage begins on January 1.

Section 2.2 **In certain situations, you can end your membership during a Special Enrollment Period**

In certain situations, members of BlueMedicare Value Rx (PDP) may be eligible to end their membership at other times of the year. This is known as a **Special Enrollment Period**.

- **Who is eligible for a Special Enrollment Period?** If any of the following situations apply to you, you may be eligible to end your membership during a Special Enrollment Period. These are just examples, for the full list you can contact the plan, call Medicare, or visit the Medicare website (www.medicare.gov):
 - If you have moved out of your plan’s service area.
 - If you have Medicaid.

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- If you are eligible for “Extra Help” with paying for your Medicare prescriptions.
 - If we violate our contract with you.
 - If you are getting care in an institution, such as a nursing home or long-term care (LTC) hospital.
 - If you enroll in the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).
 - Note: If you’re in a drug management program, you may not be able to change plans. Chapter 3, Section 10 tells you more about drug management programs.
- **When are Special Enrollment Periods?** The enrollment periods vary depending on your situation.
 - **What can you do?** To find out if you are eligible for a Special Enrollment Period, please call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users call 1-877-486-2048. If you are eligible to end your membership because of a special situation, you can choose to change both your Medicare health coverage and prescription drug coverage. This means you can choose any of the following types of plans:
 - Another Medicare prescription drug plan.
 - Original Medicare *without* a separate Medicare prescription drug plan.
 - **If you receive “Extra Help” from Medicare to pay for your prescription drugs:** If you switch to Original Medicare and do not enroll in a separate Medicare prescription drug plan, Medicare may enroll you in a drug plan, unless you have opted out of automatic enrollment.
 - – *or* – A Medicare health plan. A Medicare health plan is a plan offered by a private company that contracts with Medicare to provide all of the Medicare Part A (Hospital) and Part B (Medical) benefits. Some Medicare health plans also include Part D prescription drug coverage.
 - If you enroll in most Medicare health plans, you will automatically be disenrolled from BlueMedicare Value Rx (PDP) when your new plan’s coverage begins. However, 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 plan and keep BlueMedicare Value Rx (PDP) for your drug coverage. If you do not want to keep our plan, you can choose to enroll in another Medicare prescription drug plan or to drop Medicare prescription drug coverage.
- Note:** If you disenroll from Medicare prescription drug coverage and go without creditable prescription drug coverage for a continuous period of 63 days or more, you may have to pay a Part D late enrollment penalty if you join a Medicare drug plan later. (“Creditable” coverage means the coverage is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare’s standard prescription drug coverage.) See Chapter 1, Section 5 for more information about the late enrollment penalty.
- **When will your membership end?** Your membership will usually end on the first day of the month after we receive your request to change your plan.

Section 2.3	Where can you get more information about when you can end your membership?
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If you have any questions or would like more information on when you can end your membership:

- You can **call Customer Service** (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).
- You can find the information in the *Medicare & You 2021* Handbook.
 - Everyone with Medicare receives a copy of *Medicare & You* each fall. Those new to Medicare receive it within a month after first signing up.
 - You can also download a copy from the Medicare website (www.medicare.gov). Or, you can order a printed copy by calling Medicare at the number below.
- You can 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.

SECTION 3 **How do you end your membership in our plan?**

Section 3.1	Usually, you end your membership by enrolling in another plan
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Usually, to end your membership in our plan, you simply enroll in another Medicare plan during one of the enrollment periods (see Section 2 in this chapter for information about the enrollment periods). However, there are two situations in which you will need to end your membership in a different way:

- If you want to switch from our plan to Original Medicare *without* a Medicare prescription drug plan, you must ask to be disenrolled from our plan.
- If you join a Private Fee-for-Service plan without prescription drug coverage, a Medicare Medical Savings Account Plan, or a Medicare Cost Plan, enrollment in the new plan will not end your membership in our plan. In this case, you can enroll in that plan and keep BlueMedicare Value Rx (PDP) for your drug coverage. If you do not want to keep our plan, you can choose to enroll in another Medicare prescription drug plan or ask to be disenrolled from our plan.

If you are in one of these two situations and want to leave our plan, there are two ways you can ask to be disenrolled:

- You can make a request in writing to us. Contact Customer Service if you need more information on how to do this (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).

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- --or-- You can 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.

Note: If you disenroll from Medicare prescription drug coverage and go without creditable prescription drug coverage for 63 days or more in a row, you may have to pay a Part D late enrollment penalty if you join a Medicare drug plan later. (“Creditable” coverage means the coverage is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare’s standard prescription drug coverage.) See Chapter 1, Section 5 for more information about the late enrollment penalty.

The table below explains how you should end your membership in our plan.

If you would like to switch from our plan to:	This is what you should do:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another Medicare prescription drug plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enroll in the new Medicare prescription drug plan between October 15 and December 7. You will automatically be disenrolled from BlueMedicare Value Rx (PDP) when your new plan’s coverage begins.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Medicare health plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enroll in the Medicare health plan by December 7. With most Medicare health plans, you will automatically be disenrolled from BlueMedicare Value Rx (PDP) when your new plan’s coverage begins. However, 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 BlueMedicare Value Rx (PDP) for your drug coverage. If you want to leave our plan, you must <i>either</i> enroll in another Medicare prescription drug plan <i>or</i> ask to be disenrolled. To ask to be disenrolled, you must send us a written request (contact Customer Service (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet) if you need more information on how to do this) 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).

Chapter 8. Ending your membership in the plan**If you would like to switch from our plan to:****This is what you should do:**

- Original Medicare *without* a separate Medicare prescription drug plan.

Note: If you disenroll from a Medicare prescription drug plan and go without creditable prescription drug coverage for 63 days or more in a row, you may have to pay a late enrollment penalty if you join a Medicare drug plan later. See Chapter 1, Section 5 for more information about the late enrollment penalty.

- **Send us a written request to disenroll.** Contact Customer Service if you need more information on how to do this (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).
- You can also 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 Until your membership ends, you must keep getting your drugs through our plan

Section 4.1	Until your membership ends, you are still a member of our plan
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If you leave BlueMedicare Value Rx (PDP), it may take time before your membership ends and your new Medicare coverage goes into effect. (See Section 2 for information on when your new coverage begins.) During this time, you must continue to get your prescription drugs through our plan.

- **You should continue to use our network pharmacies to get your prescriptions filled until your membership in our plan ends.** Usually, your prescription drugs are only covered if they are filled at a network pharmacy including through our mail-order pharmacy services.

SECTION 5 BlueMedicare Value Rx (PDP) must end your membership in the plan in certain situations

Section 5.1	When must we end your membership in the plan?
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BlueMedicare Value Rx (PDP) must end your membership in the plan if any of the following happen:

- If you no longer have Medicare Part A or Part B (or both).

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- If you move out of our service area.
- If you are away from our service area for more than 12 months.
 - If you move or take a long trip, you need to call Customer Service to find out if the place you are moving or traveling to is in our plan's area. (Phone numbers for Customer Service are printed on the back cover of this booklet.)
- If you become incarcerated (go to prison).
- If you are not a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United States.
- If you lie about or withhold information about other insurance you have that provides prescription drug coverage.
- If you intentionally give us incorrect information when you are enrolling in our plan and that information affects your eligibility for our plan. (We cannot make you leave our plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first.)
- If you continuously behave in a way that is disruptive and makes it difficult for us to provide care for you and other members of our plan. (We cannot make you leave our plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first.)
- If you let someone else use your membership card to get prescription drugs. (We cannot make you leave our plan for this reason unless we get permission from Medicare first.)
 - If we end your membership because of this reason, Medicare may have your case investigated by the Inspector General.
- If you are required to pay the extra Part D amount because of your income and you do not pay it, Medicare will disenroll you from our plan and you will lose prescription drug coverage.

Where can you get more information?

If you have questions or would like more information on when we can end your membership:

- You can call **Customer Service** for more information (phone numbers are printed on the back cover of this booklet).

Section 5.2 We cannot ask you to leave our plan for any reason related to your health

BlueMedicare Value Rx (PDP) is not allowed to ask you to leave our plan for any reason related to your health.

What should you do if this happens?

If you feel that you are being asked to leave our plan because of a health-related reason, you should call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. You may call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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Section 5.3 You have the right to make a complaint if we end your membership in our plan

If we end your membership in our plan, we must tell you our reasons in writing for ending your membership. We must also explain how you file a grievance or can make a complaint about our decision to end your membership. You can also look in Chapter 7, Section 7 for information about how to make a complaint.