



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

Date: [Date]

Stop Your Medicaid Benefit from Ending

You are receiving this letter because you are receiving chronic renal disease services, paid for by the New York State Medicaid Program. Chronic renal disease is a medical condition in which a person's kidneys cease to function on permanent basis leading to the need for dialysis or a kidney transplant to maintain life. When you have chronic renal disease you may be entitled to medical benefits through the MEDICARE program. **In order to continue to be eligible for the Medicaid program, you must apply for MEDICARE coverage if it is available to you.**

If you have not already done so, and do not currently have MEDICARE coverage, you **must** apply by calling the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or by applying on-line at: <https://www.ssa.gov/medicare/>.

You must send proof that you have applied for MEDICARE to your local Medicaid office within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Proof can be:

- Your award or denial letter from the Social Security Administration, or
- Your online confirmation letter stating that you have applied for MEDICARE with the Social Security Administration

What is the difference between MEDICARE and Medicaid?

- **MEDICARE** is a federal program that gives you health care coverage if you have end stage renal disease and have enough qualifying work quarters based on your, or your spouse's or your parent's work history. Most people are also eligible for MEDICARE at age 65, regardless of their income.
- **Medicaid** is a state-run program that covers medical expenses for people with low or limited incomes.

When a person has both MEDICARE and Medicaid, MEDICARE pays first and Medicaid pays second. Individuals with MEDICARE also have more medical providers to choose from. The MEDICARE card must be presented to the provider at the time of service.

There are Medicaid programs that may help you with your MEDICARE premium costs and prescription drug costs.

- The **MEDICARE Savings Program (MSP)** helps pay the MEDICARE premiums. If you are eligible for the MEDICARE Savings Program, Medicaid will pay the cost of your MEDICARE premiums. This program has higher income levels than the Medicaid program and also has no resource test. To find out if Medicaid can pay your MEDICARE premiums, contact your local Department of Social Services. If you live in New York City you can call 311 to find an office near you.
- The **MEDICARE Prescription Drug Program (MEDICARE Part D)** is the part of MEDICARE that provides prescription drug coverage. Individuals who have MEDICARE and Medicaid will receive help from Medicaid to pay the Part D premiums.

Apply for MEDICARE Today

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