



SIMS BURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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October 1, 2024

Important Information About Your Simsbury Board of Education Retiree Medical and Prescription Drug Benefits

Dear Medicare-eligible Retiree and/or Dependent,

We are pleased to inform you that there will be a change to your medical and prescription drug coverage provided by Simsbury Board of Education. This change is being made to address the continually increasing cost of coverage and to ensure that Medicare-eligible participants have access to comprehensive coverage at the most affordable cost.

Your new Medicare Advantage with Prescription Drug (MAPD) Plan will be provided by **Anthem Medicare Preferred (PPO)** effective January 1, 2025.

In addition to the new plan, Simsbury Board of Education has also retained RetireeFirst, a retiree benefits management solutions and advocacy service provider. RetireeFirst Advocates are US-based and available to help you navigate the complex retiree healthcare landscape and troubleshoot any issues you may have with your insurance carrier, provider's office, and pharmacy.

About Your New Plan

Plan Highlights:

- \$0 Medical and Prescription Deductibles
- \$0 Medicare covered medical services
- \$0 Routine eye exam every 12 months, \$150 Eyewear allowance every 12 months (Must use Blue View Vision providers)
- \$0 Routine hearing exam and evaluation every 12 months, \$500 Hearing aid allowance per ear every 36 months (Must use Hearing Care Solutions providers)
- \$0 Podiatry visits (12 Visits per year)
- \$0 Chiropractic visits (Unlimited)
- \$0 Acupuncture visits (Unlimited)

Committed to Excellence Every Day

- SilverSneakers Fitness Benefit
- Access to RetireeFirst Advocates for assistance with understanding and using your benefits

Important Things to Know:

- You must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B to participate in the Anthem MAPD Plan.
- Put your Medicare card in a safe place in case you need it later. You will use only your Anthem ID Card for medical and prescription drugs.
- You can use any willing Medicare medical provider, regardless of if the provider is in or out of the Anthem network.
- No referrals are needed for Medicare covered medical services.
- You should continue to be able to use almost any retail pharmacy as Anthem includes over 65,000 in-network pharmacies, nationwide.
- Anthem also offers a Mail Order Pharmacy called CarelonRx for your convenience. If you would like to use the CarelonRx Mail Order Pharmacy, you will need new prescriptions.
- You do not need new prescriptions for retail pharmacies. Simply show your new ID card and your refills will be processed under the Anthem MAPD Plan.

Mailings to Expect in the Coming Months:

- Anthem Pre-enrollment Guide
- Anthem Confirmation of Enrollment Letter
- Anthem Welcome Plan Guide
- Anthem ID Card
- Please keep in mind each retiree, spouse, and/or dependent may receive the above items on different days; this is normal.

We are required by law to give you the choice of opting out of the new plan. Since you are currently enrolled in the Simsbury Board of Education medical and prescription drug plan it is unlikely that you would not participate in the new Anthem MAPD Plan. However, you have the option to opt-out. If you opt out, you will not have medical and prescription drug coverage through Simsbury Board of Education. Nevertheless, if you would like to opt-out, please call RetireeFirst Advocates at (860) 735-7090 (TTY 711) or toll free (855) 203-5618 (TTY 711) Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm EST.

You're Invited

RetireeFirst will be hosting an in-person informational retiree event as well as a virtual retiree presentation detailing the new plan and answering any questions you may have. Retirees, spouses, and/or dependents are invited to attend the below events:

In-Person Location / Virtual Information	Date	Time
Board of Education of Simsbury Conference Room 933 Hopmeadow Street Simsbury, CT 06070	Tuesday, October 29, 2024	10:00am EST
Visit www.zoom.com and click <i>join</i> in the right-hand corner. Meeting ID: 858 0792 4736 Passcode: 123456	Thursday, November 7, 2024	10:00am EST

Please RSVP for the in-person event by October 24, 2024 to RetireeFirst at (860) 735-7090 (TTY 711) or toll free (855) 203-5618 (TTY 711) Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm EST.

We strongly recommend that all Medicare-eligible retirees and/or dependents attend an in-person event or a virtual presentation to better understand any plan changes.

Additionally, a Retiree Advocacy Webpage has been set up for easy access to the RetireeFirst plan and contact information. You can access this page at www.retireefirst.com/Simsbury. A recorded version of the Webinar presentation will be posted to the Retiree Advocacy Webpage after November 14, 2024 to view at your convenience.

Enclosed in this mailing is also a Frequently Asked Questions document to answer questions you might have now. If you have questions about any information in this letter, please do not hesitate to call RetireeFirst Advocates at **(860) 735-7090 (TTY 711) or toll free (855) 203-5618 (TTY 711) EST**. The phone lines are open!

Sincerely,
Simsbury Board of Education

For complete benefit details please refer to the carrier issued materials. This document includes a simplified summary of benefits and does not create any contractual rights.

