



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor
Michelle Pizzi O'Brien, Director of Human Resources

MEMORANDUM

TO: City of Newton Retirees and Eligible Spouses
FROM: Michelle Pizzi O'Brien, Director of Human Resources
RE: Open Enrollment for Medicare Eligible Retirees
DATE: October 31, 2022

Open enrollment for the **Tufts Medicare Preferred Plan** and **BCBS Medicare HMO Blue Plan** for all City of Newton's retirees and eligible spouses will be held from **November 2, 2022, through November 30, 2022**. If you and/or your spouse are over 65 and are Medicare eligible, this is an opportunity for you to review the plans offered and determine which one best fits your needs. If you and/or your spouse are under the age of 65 or are not eligible for Medicare, the open enrollment for those health plans will occur in late spring 2023.

If you are currently enrolled in one of the Medicare Eligible Retiree plans and DO NOT wish to make any changes, NO ACTION IS REQUIRED.

To enroll in Tufts Medicare Preferred Plan or BCBS Medicare HMO Blue, please complete an enrollment form for that plan and a disenrollment form for the old plan, if applicable.

All forms and additional information can be found on the City of Newton Retiree Benefits website at:

www.newtonma.gov/enroll

If you are unable to access the forms online, please contact our Benefits staff at **617-796-1262**. **If you need an in-person visit, please call the number above to schedule an appointment.**

Important Changes Effective January 1, 2023 for all Tufts Medicare Complement and Tuft Medicare Preferred Members

Tufts is changing its Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) to OptumRX effective 1/1/2023. Optum RX's network consists of over 67,000 pharmacies nationwide and include all CVS pharmacies. For existing members, Tufts will send you a notice in November outlining this change. All existing prior authorizations, remaining refills and exception will be transferred to OptumRX for a seamless transition. Please be on the lookout for a new ID card mid-December that will be mailed to your home. **Be sure to provide the new ID card to your pharmacy after 1/1/2023.**

The City of Newton currently offers two Medicare Advantage Plans and one Medicare Supplemental Plan:

Tufts Medicare Preferred HMO Plan: For retirees living in Massachusetts only (excluding Franklin, Berkshire, Dukes, and Nantucket counties). Accepts any doctor in the Tufts Health Plan Medicare Preferred HMO network. **Effective 1/1/2023 the Prescription Drug plan is changing to OptumRX.** Rates are increasing by 4.0%.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield Medicare HMO Blue: For retirees living in Massachusetts only (excluding Berkshire, Dukes, and Nantucket counties). Accepts any doctor in the HMO Blue Network. There are no benefit or rates changes to this plan effective 1/1/2023.

Please review the provided *Comparison Chart* and *Monthly Rates* associated with the three plans offered by the City. If you would like to make a change or enroll in the Tufts Medicare Preferred Plan or Medicare HMO Blue effective January 1, 2023, you may do so at this time.

Tufts Medicare Complement Plan: (Tufts MCP): Accepts any doctor nationwide that accepts Medicare and is willing to accept this plan. This plan is recommended to retirees and/or spouses that travel or live out the area. **Effective 1/1/2023 the Prescription Drug plan is changing to OptumRX.** This plan renews in July.

All enrollment/change forms must be received in the Human Resources Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 30, 2022. All changes or terminations to your health insurance plan will become effective on January 1, 2023.

Again, if you are currently enrolled in one of the City's health insurance plans and do not wish to make any changes, no action is required.

Wishing you and your family good health and well wishes for a happy and healthy 2023.

City of Newton Human Resources Department Benefits Team

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