

# Compliance Alert

## Date Change for Medicare Part D Notices

May 24, 2011

Employers that currently provide prescription drug coverage must disclose to plan participants who are eligible for Part D whether the coverage is creditable. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires a notice be sent prior to the start of the annual Medicare Part D enrollment period, which in the past was November 15<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) has changed the Medicare Part D annual enrollment period to October 15<sup>th</sup> through December 7<sup>th</sup>, thus making the notices due by October 15<sup>th</sup> each year. The new enrollment period takes effect in the fall of 2011 for 2012 Part D enrollment. Employers should make sure to send required Part D notices prior to October 15 beginning in 2011.

CMS has also posted updated revised model disclosure notices that reflect the new enrollment period. The model notices, in both English and Spanish, can be found at <http://www.cms.gov/CreditableCoverage>.

Applicability: All employers who offer prescription drug coverage to employees are required to send a Part D notice to any participant eligible for Medicare.

*The McCart Group will continue to update you on the regulations as they are released.*

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