

First Choice VIP Care (HMO-SNP) offered by Select Health of South Carolina

Annual Notice of Changes for 2025

You are currently enrolled as a member of First Choice VIP Care. Next year, there will be changes to the plan's costs and benefits. *Please see page 5 for a Summary of Important Costs, including Premium.*

This document tells about the changes to your plan. To get more information about costs, benefits, or rules please review the *Evidence of Coverage*, which is located on our website at www.firstchoicevipcare.com. You may also call Member Services to ask us to mail you an *Evidence of Coverage*.

What to do now

1. ASK: Which changes apply to you

- Check the changes to our benefits and costs to see if they affect you.
 - Review the changes to medical care costs (doctor, hospital).
 - Review the changes to our drug coverage, including coverage restrictions and cost sharing.
 - Think about how much you will spend on premiums, deductibles, and cost sharing.
 - Check the changes in the 2025 “Drug List” to make sure the drugs you currently take are still covered.
 - Compare the 2024 and 2025 plan information to see if any of these drugs are moving to a different cost-sharing tier or will be subject to different restrictions, such as prior authorization, step therapy, or a quantity limit, for 2025.
- Check to see if your primary care doctors, specialists, hospitals and other providers, including pharmacies will be in our network next year.
- Check if you qualify for help paying for prescription drugs. People with limited incomes may qualify for “Extra Help” from Medicare.
- Think about whether you are happy with our plan.

2. COMPARE: Learn about other plan choices

- Check coverage and costs of plans in your area. Use the Medicare Plan Finder at the www.medicare.gov/plan-compare website or review the list in the back of your *Medicare & You 2025* handbook. For additional support, contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) to speak with a trained counselor.
- Once you narrow your choice to a preferred plan, confirm your costs and coverage on the plan's website.

3. CHOOSE: Decide whether you want to change your plan

- If you don't join another plan by December 7, 2024, you will stay in First Choice VIP Care.
- To **change to a different plan**, you can switch plans between October 15 and December 7. Your new coverage will start on **January 1, 2025**. This will end your enrollment with First Choice VIP Care.
- Look in section 3.2, page 18 to learn more about your choices.
- If you recently moved into or currently live in an institution (like a skilled nursing facility or long-term care hospital), you can switch plans or switch to Original Medicare (either with or without a separate Medicare prescription drug plan) at any time. If you recently moved out of an institution, you have an opportunity to switch plans or switch to Original Medicare for two full months after the month you move out.

Additional Resources

- Please contact our Member Services number at **1-888-996-0499** for additional information. (TTY users should call 711.) Hours are October 1 – March 31: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., seven days a week and from April 1 – September 30: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. This call is free.
- **Please contact Member Services if you require this document in an alternative format such as large font, Braille, or audio.**
- **Coverage under this plan qualifies as Qualifying Health Coverage (QHC)** and satisfies the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's (ACA) individual shared responsibility requirement. Please visit the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) website at www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act/Individuals-and-Families for more information.

About First Choice VIP Care

- First Choice VIP Care is an HMO-SNP plan with a Medicare contract and a contract with the South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid program. Enrollment in First Choice VIP Care depends on contract renewal. The plan also has a written agreement with the South Carolina Medicaid program to coordinate your Medicaid benefits.
- When this document says “we,” “us,” or “our,” it means Select Health of South Carolina, Inc. When it says “plan” or “our plan,” it means First Choice VIP Care.

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Summary of Important Costs for 2025

The table below compares the 2024 costs and 2025 costs for First Choice VIP Care in several important areas. **Please note this is only a summary of costs.** If you are eligible for Medicare cost-sharing assistance under Medicaid, you pay \$0 for your deductible, doctor office visits, and inpatient hospital stays.

Cost	2024 (this year)	2025 (next year)
Monthly plan premium* * Your premium may be higher than this amount. See Section 1.1 for details.	\$0	\$0
Doctor office visits	Primary care visits: \$0 per visit Specialist visits: \$0 per visit	Primary care visits: \$0 per visit Specialist visits: \$0 per visit
Inpatient hospital stays	\$0 copay	\$0 copay
Part D prescription drug coverage (See Section 1.5 for details.)	Deductible: \$0 Copayment during the Initial Coverage Stage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You Pay \$0 per prescription. Catastrophic Coverage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During this payment stage, the plan pays the full cost for your covered Part D drugs. You pay nothing. 	Deductible: \$0 Copayment during the Initial Coverage Stage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You Pay \$0 per prescription. Catastrophic Coverage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During this payment stage, you pay nothing for your covered Part D drugs.

Cost	2024 (this year)	2025 (next year)
<p>Maximum out-of-pocket amount</p> <p>This is the <u>most</u> you will pay out-of-pocket for your covered Part A and Part B services. (See Section 1.2 for details.)</p>	<p>\$8,850</p> <p>You are not responsible for paying any out-of-pocket costs toward the maximum out-of-pocket amount for covered Part A and Part B services.</p>	<p>\$9,350</p> <p>You are not responsible for paying any out-of-pocket costs toward the maximum out-of-pocket amount for covered Part A and Part B services.</p>

SECTION 1 Changes to Benefits and Costs for Next Year

Section 1.1 – Changes to the Monthly Premium

Cost	2024 (this year)	2025 (next year)
<p>Monthly premium</p> <p>There is no change for the upcoming benefit year.</p> <p>(You must also continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium unless it is paid for you by Medicaid.)</p>	<p>\$0</p>	<p>\$0</p>

Section 1.2 – Changes to Your Maximum Out-of-Pocket Amount

Medicare requires all health plans to limit how much you pay out-of-pocket for the year. This limit is called the maximum out-of-pocket amount. Once you reach this amount, you generally pay nothing for covered services for the rest of the year.

Cost	2024 (this year)	2025 (next year)
Maximum out-of-pocket amount	\$8,850	\$9,350
<p>Because our members also get assistance from Medicaid, very few members ever reach this out-of-pocket maximum.</p> <p>You are not responsible for paying any out-of-pocket costs toward the maximum out-of-pocket amount for covered Part A and Part B services.</p> <p>Your costs for covered medical services (such as copays) count toward your maximum out-of-pocket amount.</p>		<p>Once you have paid \$9,350 out-of-pocket for covered services, you will pay nothing for your covered services for the rest of the calendar year.</p>

Section 1.3 – Changes to the Provider and Pharmacy Networks

Amounts you pay for your prescription drugs may depend on which pharmacy you use. Medicare drug plans have a network of pharmacies. In most cases, your prescriptions are covered *only* if they are filled at one of our network pharmacies.

Updated directories are located on our website at www.firstchoicevipcare.com. You may also call Member Services for updated provider and/or pharmacy information or to ask us to mail you a directory, which we will mail within three business days.

There are changes to our network of providers for next year. **Please review the 2025 Provider Directory www.firstchoicevipcare.com to see if your providers (primary care provider, specialists, hospitals, etc.) are in our network.**

There are changes to our network of pharmacies for next year. **Please review the 2025 Pharmacy Directory www.firstchoicevipcare.com to see which pharmacies are in our network.**

It is important that you know that we may make changes to the hospitals, doctors, specialists (providers), and pharmacies that are a part of your plan during the year. If a mid-year change in our providers affects you, please contact Member Services so we may assist.

Section 1.4 – Changes to Benefits and Costs for Medical Services

Please note that the *Annual Notice of Changes* tells you about changes to your Medicare benefits and costs.

We are making changes to costs and benefits for certain medical services next year. The information below describes these changes.

Cost	2024 (this year)	2025 (next year)
Comprehensive Dental	<p>You pay a \$0 copay.</p> <p>The combined total of comprehensive dental benefits cannot exceed \$3,000 every year. Prior authorization and limits may apply for some comprehensive dental services.</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay.</p> <p>The combined total of comprehensive dental benefits cannot exceed \$3,600 every year. Prior authorization and limits may apply for some comprehensive dental services.</p>
Medicare Covered Dental Services	<p>You pay a \$0 copay.</p> <p>Medicare covered dental services that are a necessary part of treating certain medical conditions. Some examples are jaw reconstruction after a fracture or injury, tooth extractions before radiation treatment for cancer in the jaw, or oral exams before a kidney transplant.</p> <p>Prior authorization is required.</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay.</p> <p>Medicare covered dental services that are a necessary part of treating certain medical conditions. Some examples are jaw reconstruction after a fracture or injury, tooth extractions before radiation treatment for cancer in the jaw, or oral exams before a kidney transplant.</p> <p>No prior authorization required.</p>

Cost	2024 (this year)	2025 (next year)
<p>Hearing</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One routine hearing exam every year • 80 batteries per aid for non-rechargeable models every three years <p>Up to \$1,500 toward the cost of non-implantable hearing aid(s) from the applicable TruHearing Choice catalog every three years.</p> <p>You must receive your care from a network provider. We will only pay for covered hearing services if you go to an in-network hearing provider. In most cases, you will have to pay for care that you receive from an out-of-network provider.</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One routine hearing exam every year • 80 batteries per aid for non-rechargeable models every three years <p>Up to \$2,500 toward the cost of non-implantable hearing aid(s) from the applicable TruHearing Choice catalog every three years.</p> <p>You must receive your care from a network provider. We will only pay for covered hearing services if you go to an in-network hearing provider. In most cases, you will have to pay for care that you receive from an out-of-network provider.</p>
<p>Meal Benefit, post discharge</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay.</p> <p>The post-discharge meal benefit covers 14 meals per week for four weeks for qualified homebound members after discharge from an inpatient facility or a skilled nursing facility.</p> <p>Referral is required.</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay.</p> <p>The post-discharge meal benefit covers 14 meals over the course of one week for qualified homebound members after each discharge from an inpatient facility or a skilled nursing facility, up to four times per year.</p> <p>Referral is required.</p>

Cost	2024 (this year)	2025 (next year)
<p>Over-the-Counter Items (OTC)</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay</p> <p>Benefit includes \$185 per month for over-the-counter (OTC) items included in the OTC catalog, online ordering portal and/or qualified items at participating retail settings via a restricted spend debit card. There is no limit on the total number of items or orders a member may purchase. Any unused balance will automatically expire at the end of each month or upon disenrollment from the plan.</p> <p>Members who qualify based on socioeconomic (LIS) status may use \$185 of the monthly allowance towards qualifying food & produce at participating retail locations and/or FarmBox mail-order, item limits may apply and/or qualifying rent and utility services. Any unused balance will automatically expire at the end of each month or upon disenrollment from the plan.</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay</p> <p>Benefit includes \$250 per month for over-the-counter (OTC) items included in the OTC catalog, online ordering portal and/or qualified items at participating retail settings via a restricted spend debit card. There is no limit on the total number of items or orders a member may purchase. Any unused balance will automatically expire at the end of each month or upon disenrollment from the plan.</p> <p>Coverage includes Naloxone.</p> <p>Members who qualify based on socioeconomic (LIS) status may use \$250 of the monthly allowance towards qualifying food & produce at participating retail locations and/or mail-order (item limits may apply) and/or qualifying rent and utility services, internet services, pest control, and pet supplies. Any unused balance will automatically expire at the end of each month or upon disenrollment from the plan.</p>

Cost	2024 (this year)	2025 (next year)
<p>Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)</p>	<p>Not covered.</p>	<p>You pay \$0 copay.</p> <p>A Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) is a medical alert monitoring system that provides 24/7 access to help at the push of a button. We offer multiple styles, including mobile-enabled wearable devices.</p> <p>The plan will cover one device per year from Medical Guardian. Benefit includes the device and monthly monitoring (including fall detection and GPS).</p>
<p>Routine Acupuncture</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay per visit.</p> <p>12 routine acupuncture visits covered every year.</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay per visit.</p> <p>Up to a combined total of 20 routine acupuncture and routine chiropractic care visits per year.</p>
<p>Routine Chiropractic Care</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay per visit.</p> <p>12 routine chiropractic visits covered every year.</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay per visit.</p> <p>Up to a combined total of 20 routine acupuncture and routine chiropractic care visits per year.</p>
<p>Transportation Services</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay.</p> <p>80 one-way trips every year to plan-approved locations.</p> <p>Prior authorization is required for trips that exceed 50 miles for a one-way ride. Other prior authorization and scheduling rules apply.</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay.</p> <p>50 one-way trips every year to plan-approved locations.</p> <p>Prior authorization is required for trips that exceed 50 miles for a one-way ride. Other prior authorization and scheduling rules apply.</p>

Cost	2024 (this year)	2025 (next year)
<p>Value-Based Insurance Design Model Benefit (VBID)</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay for VBID benefits.</p> <p>Members who qualify based on socioeconomic (LIS) status may use \$185 of the monthly allowance toward qualifying food & produce at participating retail locations and/or FarmBox mail-order. Item limits may apply and/or qualifying rent and utility services. Any unused balance will automatically expire at the end of each month or upon disenrollment from the plan.</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay for VBID benefits.</p> <p>Members who qualify based on socioeconomic (LIS) status may use \$250 of the monthly allowance toward qualifying food & produce at participating retail locations and/or mail-order (item limits may apply) and/or qualifying rent and utility services, internet services, pest control, and pet supplies. Any unused balance will automatically expire at the end of each month or upon disenrollment from the plan.</p>
<p>Vision Services</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One routine vision exam every year. <p>The plan will cover up to \$350 every year toward eyeglasses or contact lenses.</p>	<p>You pay a \$0 copay.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One routine vision exam every year. <p>The plan will cover up to \$400 every year toward eyeglasses or contact lenses.</p>

Section 1.5 – Changes to Part D Prescription Drug Coverage

Changes to Our Drug List

Our list of covered drugs is called a Formulary or Drug List. A copy of our Drug List is provided electronically.

We made changes to our Drug List, which could include removing or adding drugs, changing the restrictions that apply to our coverage for certain drugs or moving them to a different cost-sharing tier. **Review the Drug List to make sure your drugs will be covered next year and to see if there will be any restrictions, or if your drug has been moved to a different cost-sharing tier.**

Most of the changes in the Drug List are new for the beginning of each year. However, we might make other changes that are allowed by Medicare rules that will affect you during the plan year. We update our online Drug List at least monthly to provide the most up to date list of drugs. If we make a change that will affect your access to a drug you are taking, we will send you a notice about the change.

If you are affected by a change in drug coverage at the beginning of the year or during the year, please review Chapter 9 of your Evidence of Coverage and talk to your doctor to find out your options, such as asking for a temporary supply, applying for an exception and/or working to find a new drug. You can also contact Member Services for more information.

We currently can immediately remove a brand name drug on our Drug List if we replace it with a new generic drug version with the same or fewer restrictions as the brand name drug it replaces. Also, when adding a new generic, we may also decide to keep the brand name drug on our Drug List, but immediately add new restrictions.

Starting in 2025, we can immediately replace original biological products with certain biosimilars. This means, for instance, if you are taking an original biological product that is being replaced by a biosimilar, you may not get notice of the change 30 days before we make it or get a month's supply of your original biological product at a network pharmacy. If you are taking the original biological product at the time we make the change, you will still get information on the specific change we made, but it may arrive after we make the change.

Some of these drug types may be new to you. For definitions of drug types, please see Chapter 12 of your *Evidence of Coverage*. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) also provides consumer information on drugs. See FDA website:

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/biosimilars/multimedia-education-materials-biosimilars#For%20Patients>. You may also contact Member Services or ask your health care

provider, prescriber, or pharmacist for more information.

Changes to Prescription Drug Benefits and Costs

Beginning in 2025, there are three **drug payment stages**: the Yearly Deductible Stage, the Initial Coverage Stage, and the Catastrophic Coverage Stage. The Coverage Gap Stage and the Coverage Gap Discount Program will no longer exist in the Part D benefit.

The Coverage Gap Discount Program will also be replaced by the Manufacturer Discount Program. Under the Manufacturer Discount Program, drug manufacturers pay a portion of the plan’s full cost for covered Part D brand name drugs and biologics during the Initial Coverage Stage and the Catastrophic Coverage Stage. Discounts paid by manufacturers under the Manufacturer Discount Program do not count toward out-of-pocket costs.

Changes to the Deductible Stage

Stage	2024 (this year)	2025 (next year)
Stage 1: Yearly Deductible Stage	Because we have no deductible, this payment stage does not apply to you.	Because we have no deductible, this payment stage does not apply to you.

Changes to Your Cost Sharing in the Initial Coverage Stage

Stage	2024 (this year)	2025 (next year)
<p>Stage 2: Initial Coverage Stage During this stage, the plan pays its share of the cost of your drugs, and you pay your share of the cost.</p> <p>The costs in this row are for a one-month (30-day) supply when you fill your prescription at a network pharmacy.</p> <p>For information about the costs for a long-term supply, look in Chapter 6 of your <i>Evidence of Coverage</i>.</p> <p>Most adult Part D vaccines are covered at no cost to you.</p>	<p>Your cost for a one-month supply filled at a network pharmacy is: You pay \$0 per prescription.</p> <hr/> <p>Once you have paid \$8,000 out of pocket for Part D drugs, you will move to the next stage (the Catastrophic Coverage Stage).</p>	<p>Your cost for a one-month supply filled at a network pharmacy is: You pay \$0 per prescription.</p> <hr/> <p>Once you have paid \$2,000 out of pocket for Part D drugs, you will move to the next stage (the Catastrophic Coverage Stage).</p>

Changes to the Catastrophic Coverage Stage

The Catastrophic Coverage Stage is the third and final stage. Beginning in 2025, drug manufacturers pay a portion of the plan’s full cost for covered Part D brand name drugs and biologics during the Catastrophic Coverage Stage. Discounts paid by manufacturers under the Manufacturer Discount Program do not count toward out-of-pocket costs.

For specific information about your costs in the Catastrophic Coverage Stage, look at Chapter 6 in your *Evidence of Coverage*.

SECTION 2 Administrative Changes

See below for other important changes to your plan.

Description	2024 (this year)	2025 (next year)
<p>Plan Service Area</p>	<p>Our plan service area includes the following counties:</p> <p>Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Dillon, Dorchester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Greenville, Greenwood, Hampton, Jasper, Kershaw, Laurens, Lee, Lexington, Marion, Marlboro, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Sumter, Union, and Williamsburg.</p>	<p>Our plan service area includes the following counties:</p> <p>Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Dillon, Dorchester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Greenville, Greenwood, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Lee, Lexington, Marion, Marlboro, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Sumter, Union, Williamsburg, and York.</p>

Description	2024 (this year)	2025 (next year)
<p>Over-the-Counter (OTC) Flex Card Change</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Our OTC Flex Card vendor has a new name, Medline (formerly United Medco). Because of this, you will get a new card in the mail at the end of the 2024 calendar year. When you receive your new card, please follow the instructions to activate it so you can keep using your OTC benefits without any problems.</p>
<p>Medicare Prescription Payment Plan</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan is a new payment option that works with your current drug coverage, and it can help you manage your drug costs by spreading them across monthly payments that vary throughout the year (January – December).</p> <p>To learn more about this payment option, please contact us at 1-888-996-0499 (TTY only, call 711) or visit Medicare.gov.</p>

SECTION 3 Deciding Which Plan to Choose

Section 3.1 – If you want to stay in First Choice VIP Care

To stay in our plan, you don't need to do anything. If you do not sign up for a different plan or change to Original Medicare by December 7, you will automatically be enrolled in our First Choice VIP Care.

Section 3.2 – If you want to change plans

We hope to keep you as a member next year but if you want to change plans for 2025 follow these steps:

Step 1: Learn about and compare your choices

- You can join a different Medicare health plan,
- *OR* - You can change to Original Medicare. If you change to Original Medicare, you will need to decide whether to join a Medicare drug plan.

To learn more about Original Medicare and the different types of Medicare plans, use the Medicare Plan Finder (www.medicare.gov/plan-compare), read the *Medicare & You 2025* handbook, call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see Section 5), or call Medicare (see Section 7.2).

Step 2: Change your coverage

- To **change to a different Medicare health plan**, enroll in the new plan. You will automatically be disenrolled from First Choice VIP Care.
- To **change to Original Medicare with a prescription drug plan**, enroll in the new drug plan. You will automatically be disenrolled from First Choice VIP Care.
- To **change to Original Medicare without a prescription drug plan**, you must either:
 - Send us a written request to disenroll. Contact Member Services if you need more information on how to do so.
 - – *OR* – 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.

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.

SECTION 4 Deadline for Changing Plans

If you want to change to a different plan or to Original Medicare for next year, you can do it from **October 15 until December 7**. The change will take effect on January 1, 2025.

Are there other times of the year to make a change?

In certain situations, changes are also allowed at other times of the year. Examples include people with Medicaid, those who get “Extra Help” paying for their drugs, those who have or are leaving employer coverage, and those who move out of the service area.

Because you have Healthy Connections Medicaid, you can end your membership in our plan any month of the year. You also have options to enroll in another Medicare plan any month including:

- Original Medicare *with* a separate Medicare prescription drug plan,
- Original Medicare without a separate Medicare prescription drug plan (If you choose this option, Medicare may enroll you in a drug plan, unless you have opted out of automatic enrollment.), or
- If eligible, an integrated D-SNP that provides your Medicare and most or all of your Medicaid benefits and services in one plan.

If you enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan for January 1, 2025, and don't like your plan choice, you can also switch to another Medicare health plan (either with or without Medicare prescription drug coverage) or switch to Original Medicare (either with or without Medicare prescription drug coverage) between January 1 and March 31, 2025.

If you recently moved into or currently live in an institution (like a skilled nursing facility or long-term care hospital), you can change your Medicare coverage **at any time**. You can change to any other Medicare health plan (either with or without Medicare prescription drug coverage) or switch to Original Medicare (either with or without a separate Medicare prescription drug plan) at any time. If you recently moved out of an institution, you have an opportunity to switch plans or switch to Original Medicare for two full months after the month you move out.

SECTION 5 Programs That Offer Free Counseling about Medicare and Medicaid

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is an independent government program with trained counselors in every state. In South Carolina, the SHIP is called I-CARE (Insurance Counseling Assistance and Referrals for Elders).

It is a state program that gets money from the Federal government to give **free** local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare. I-CARE counselors can help you with your Medicare questions or problems. They can help you understand your Medicare plan choices and answer questions about switching plans. You can call I-CARE at 1-800-868-9095 (TTY 711). You can learn more about I-CARE by visiting their website (<https://www.aging.sc.gov>).

For questions about your Healthy Connections Medicaid benefits, contact the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services at 1-888-549-0820 (TTY 1-888-842-3620) between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Ask how joining another plan or returning to Original Medicare affects how you get your Healthy Connections Medicaid coverage.

SECTION 6 Programs That Help Pay for Prescription Drugs

You may qualify for help paying for prescription drugs.

- **“Extra Help” from Medicare.** Because you have Medicaid, you are already enrolled in “Extra Help,” also called the Low-Income Subsidy. “Extra Help” pays some of your prescription drug premiums, yearly deductibles, and coinsurance. Because you qualify, you do not have a late enrollment penalty. If you have questions about “Extra Help,” call:
 - 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048, 24 hours a day/7 days a week;
 - The Social Security Office at 1-800-772-1213 between 8 am and 7 pm, Monday through Friday for a representative. Automated messages are available 24 hours a day. TTY users should call, 1-800-325-0778; or
 - Your State Medicaid Office.
- **The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan.** The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan is a new payment option to help you manage your out-of-pocket drug costs, starting in 2025. This new payment option works with your current drug coverage, and it can help you manage your drug costs by spreading them across **monthly payments that vary throughout the year** (January – December). **This payment option might help you manage your expenses, but it doesn’t save you money or lower your drug costs.**

“Extra Help” from Medicare and help from your SPAP and ADAP, for those who qualify, is more advantageous than participation in the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan. All members are eligible to participate in this payment option, regardless of income

level, and all Medicare drug plans and Medicare health plans with drug coverage must offer this payment option. To learn more about this payment option, please contact us at 1-888-996-0499 (TTY 711) or visit Medicare.gov.

SECTION 7 Questions?

Section 7.1 – Getting Help from First Choice VIP Care

Questions? We're here to help. Please call Member Services at 1-888-996-0499. (TTY only, call 711.) We are available for phone calls from October 1 – March 31, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., seven days a week and from April 1 – September 30, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. Calls to these numbers are free.

Read your 2025 Evidence of Coverage (it has details about next year's benefits and costs)

This *Annual Notice of Changes* gives you a summary of changes in your benefits and costs for 2025. For details, look in the *2025 Evidence of Coverage* for First Choice VIP Care. The *Evidence of Coverage* is the legal, detailed description of your plan benefits. It explains your rights and the rules you need to follow to get covered services and prescription drugs. A copy of the *Evidence of Coverage* is located on our website at www.firstchoicevipcare.com. You may also call Member Services to ask us to mail you an *Evidence of Coverage*.

Visit our Website

You can also visit our website at www.firstchoicevipcare.com. As a reminder, our website has the most up-to-date information about our provider network (*Provider Directory*) and our *List of Covered Drugs (Formulary/Drug List)*.

Section 7.2 – Getting Help from Medicare

To get information directly from Medicare:

Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)

You can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Visit the Medicare Website

Visit the Medicare website (www.medicare.gov). It has information about cost, coverage, and quality Star Ratings to help you compare Medicare health plans in your area. To view the information about plans, go to www.medicare.gov/plan-compare.

Read *Medicare & You 2025*

Read the *Medicare & You 2025* handbook. Every fall, this document is mailed to people with Medicare. It has a summary of Medicare benefits, rights and protections, and answers to the most frequently asked questions about Medicare. If you don't have a copy of this document, you can get it at the Medicare website (<https://www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/10050-medicare-and-you.pdf>) or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Section 7.3 – Getting Help from Medicaid

To get information from Healthy Connections Medicaid, you can call the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services at 1-888-549-0820 (TTY users should call 1-888-842-3620) between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.