



WACO RHEUMATOLOGY, PLLC ARTHRITIS & OSTEOPOROSIS CLINIC

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Medicare Prescription Payment Plan (M3P) *Information for Rheumatology Patients*

What is the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan?

The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan (M3P) helps you **spread out the cost of your prescription medications over time**, instead of paying the full amount all at once at the pharmacy. This makes planning for medication expenses more predictable, resulting in **less financial stress**.

This can be especially helpful for patients taking expensive **specialty medications** used to treat conditions like but not limited to:

- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Psoriatic arthritis
- Lupus
- Osteoporosis

How Does It Work?

- You enroll in the M3P program
- You will **fill your prescription as usual**
- Instead of paying the full cost at the pharmacy:
 - You may pay **\$0 or a smaller amount at pickup or upon submitting for mail delivery**
 - Your Medicare drug plan will send you a **monthly bill**

What will my monthly bill be?

- This depends on the cost of your medication and how frequently you fill the medication. However, you will pay no more than the Medicare part D **out of pocket maximum for 2026 of \$2,100**.
- **By enrolling in this program, this out of pocket cost will be spread out over the year.**
- **Example:** You begin a monthly medication in January with an out of pocket cost of \$2,100. By enrolling in the M3P program and utilizing the “smoothing” feature, your cost will be spread out over 12 months. ($\$2,100 / 12 = \175 monthly. You will only owe \$175 at first month’s fill and for all months thereafter.
- This is called **"smoothing"** — your costs are **spread out evenly over the remaining months of the year**

Important:

- The **later you enroll in the year, the higher your monthly payments may be**
- Example:
 - Start in **January** → costs spread over 12 months (lower monthly payments)
 - Start in **July** → costs spread over fewer months (higher monthly payments)
- For more examples, please visit [medicare.gov/prescription-payment-plan/examples](https://www.medicare.gov/prescription-payment-plan/examples)

Low-Income Subsidy (Extra Help)

If the monthly payments mentioned above are still unaffordable, you may qualify for **Extra Help (Low-Income Subsidy)**:

- You may have **lower or no deductible**
- You will have **reduced copays for medications**
- Your total out-of-pocket costs are already **significantly reduced**
- You can apply for extra help at **www.ssa.gov/medicare/part-d-extra-help**

Because your costs are already low, **M3P may provide less benefit** for some patients with Extra Help—but it can still help with monthly budgeting.

Important Things to Know

- This program **does NOT lower the total cost** of your medications
- You must **pay your monthly bill on time**
- If payments are missed, you may be removed from the program
- You can **join or leave at any time**

Important for Infusion Patients

If you receive medications through an infusion clinic:

- Some infused medications may be billed under **medical benefits (Part B)** instead of pharmacy benefits (Part D)
- The M3P program **only applies to medications covered under your Part D prescription plan**

Please ask our staff if you are unsure how your medication is billed.

How Do I Sign Up?

- Contact your **Medicare drug plan directly**
- Visit **Medicare.gov**
- Call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**

We are Here to Help

If you have questions about your medications or costs, please talk with our team.
We are happy to help you understand your options.

This handout is for informational purposes only and does not replace guidance from your Medicare plan.