

# SilverScript Prescription Drug Program explained



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**O**ver the last few weeks, I have received an overwhelming response regarding the NALC Health Benefit Plan's new High Option SilverScript Prescription Drug Program added into the 2024 benefit package for Medicare-enrolled members.

Unfortunately, many are uncertain about the change, have received inaccurate information, or have heard false rumors about the NALC's SilverScript program. For those reasons, I have decided to dedicate this article to clearing up those misconceptions and talk about why you should consider staying in the SilverScript Program for your prescription needs.

Let's start with a few misconceptions. One of the biggest misunderstandings is that prescription medications will cost more, which caused many members to immediately opt out. The truth is, when enrolled in the SilverScript Program, your prescription costs are guaranteed to be the same, and in some cases will be even lower through this program. The NALC has ensured that members will never see a higher cost share.

Another misconception regards the opt-in or opt-out opportunities. Participation in SilverScript is voluntary and you have the choice to opt out at any time. If you have chosen to opt out but feel differently after reading this article, you can also opt in at any time. Our process is not tied to Open Season or Medicare enrollment periods.

To re-enroll in the program, please call NALC Health Benefit Plan Customer Service to request an enrollment form or visit [nalchbp.org](http://nalchbp.org) to download a copy of the form. Once completed, the form will need to be returned to the Plan at 20547 Waverly Court, Ashburn, VA 20149, or uploaded through our member portal. It is important to note that after the form is received, it might take approximately six weeks for the process to be finalized and your enrollment to become effective.

**Now let's talk about how this program will do even more to put money back in your pocket.** When you and eligible dependents participate in SilverScript, you are eligible for up to \$600 in a tax-free Medicare Part B reimbursement. The money will be held in a Medicare Part B reimbursement account (MRA) and the process to get this money was designed to be simple.

First, you will need to register online for this account at [healthequity.com/wageworks](http://healthequity.com/wageworks). Once there, you will select "LOG IN/REGISTER" and then "Employee Registration." You then answer a few simple questions and create a username and password.

Here are some important reminders:

1. Each eligible participant will have their own HealthEquity account.
2. Only Medicare Part B premiums paid by you, the owner of the account, are eligible for reimbursement.
3. Make sure to update your account preference and personal information if you have future changes.
4. Set up direct deposit or designate "check" to identify the method to receive your reimbursement.

Once everything is created, you will need to provide proof of the Medicare Part B premium expense through the online portal or by fax or mail. Proof can be provided by submitting a canceled check, a credit card statement showing payment, a bank statement or the yearly Social Security statement indicating your Medicare Part B premium.

With this program, you will receive a prescription Identification card. This should be used at the pharmacy. Your Medicare Parts A and B card and current NALC High Option identification card should continue to be used when visiting a provider's office or receiving medical care.

**Finally, is there a reason not to participate in this program?** To keep things simple, here's the most common question for you to consider: Do I combine my current prescription health insurance with any prescription drug discount cards or coupons?

If so, you should review the savings those discounts give you. Medicare Part D does not allow you to use discount coupons. If these save you more than \$600 a year, and you cannot change medications, you will want to opt out of the SilverScript program to continue to use them.

Although there are many positives to SilverScript, we do understand that participation is a personal decision. The Plan makes decisions with the needs of our members in mind, and this is why we created our SilverScript program. We customized our program to ensure a financial benefit to our members, but we also will continue to look for other ways to reduce the overall costs of enrolling in Medicare. With that, we hope that our members take advantage of the benefit and savings we have created.