Medicare Pharmacy Benefit Stages – General Overview

The amount you pay for a medication depends on the benefit stage you have reached. Medicare Pharmacy coverage has four stages. If your plan does not have a deductible you will not have the first stage. Not all customers will reach each stage.

Annual Deductible	Initial Coverage	Coverage Gap (Donut Hole)	Catastrophic Coverage
What you pay: Beginning Jan 1 You pay for your medications until you meet the amount of your deductible. You receive Cigna's negotiated price.	What you pay: You pay a copayment or coinsurance. Cigna pays its share.	What you pay: You pay a certain percentage of the Cigna negotiated price for generic and brand name drugs.	What you pay: You pay a small amount, typically not more than 5% of the drug price. Cigna pays its share.
When it ends: Once you have met your deductible, your Initial Coverage will begin.	When it ends: When the combined "Total Drug Costs" paid by you and Cigna or other programs like Extra Help, reaches a certain level.	When it ends: When the "Out Of Pocket Costs" paid by you and programs like Extra Help, reaches a certain level.	When it ends: You will remain in this stage until the end of the calendar year on December 31st.

Please Note: Not all plans have a deductible.