

Alterwood Advantage Dual Secure (HMO DSNP) offered by Alterwood Advantage, Inc.

Annual Notice of Changes for 2024

You are currently enrolled as a member of Alterwood Advantage Dual Secure. 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.AlterwoodAdvantage.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 authorization requirements and costs.
 - Think about how much you will spend on premiums, deductibles, and cost sharing.
- Check the changes in the 2024 “Drug List” to make sure the drugs you currently take are still covered.
- Check to see if your primary care doctors, specialists, hospitals and other providers, including pharmacies will be in our network next year.
- 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 www.medicare.gov/plan-compare website or review the list in the back of your *Medicare & You 2024* handbook.
- 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, 2023, you will stay in Alterwood Advantage Dual Secure.
- To **change to a different plan**, you can switch plans between October 15 and December 7. Your new coverage will start on **January 1, 2024**. This will end your enrollment with Alterwood Advantage Dual Secure.
- Look in section 4, page 13 to learn more about your choices.
- If you recently moved into, currently live in, or just moved out of 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.

Additional Resources

- Please contact our Member Services number at 1-866-675-3944 for additional information. (TTY users should call 711.) Hours are 8 am to 8 pm local time, seven (7) days a week from October 1 through March 31 and Monday through Friday from April 1 through September 30. This call is free.
- This document may be made available in other alternative formats such as braille or large print.
- **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 Alterwood Advantage Dual Secure

- Alterwood Advantage is an HMO and HMO-SNP plan with a Medicare contract and a State of Maryland Medicaid contract. Enrollment in Alterwood Advantage depends on contract renewal.
- When this document says “we,” “us,” or “our,” it means Alterwood Advantage, Inc. When it says “plan” or “our plan,” it means Alterwood Advantage Dual Secure.

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Summary of Important Costs for 2024

The table below compares the 2023 costs and 2024 costs for Alterwood Advantage Dual Secure 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	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
<p>Monthly plan premium*</p> <p>* Your premium may be higher than this amount. See Section 2.1 for details.</p>	\$0	\$0
<p>Doctor office visits</p>	<p>Primary care visits: you pay nothing per visit</p> <p>Specialist visits: you pay nothing per visit</p>	<p>Primary care visits: you pay nothing per visit</p> <p>Specialist visits: you pay nothing per visit</p>
<p>Inpatient hospital stays</p>	<p>You pay nothing for a Medicare-covered inpatient hospital stay for up to 90 days.</p>	<p>You pay nothing for a Medicare-covered inpatient hospital stay for up to 90 days.</p>
<p>Part D prescription drug coverage (See Section 2.5 for details.)</p>	<p>Deductible: \$505 except for covered insulin products and most adult Part D vaccines.</p> <p>Copayment/Coinsurance during the Initial Coverage Stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug Tier 1: 25% coinsurance or \$0/\$1.45/\$4.15/15% for generics or \$0/\$4.30/\$10.35/ 15% for all other drugs 	<p>Deductible: \$545 except for covered insulin products and most adult Part D vaccines.</p> <p>Copayment/Coinsurance during the Initial Coverage Stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug Tier 1: 25% coinsurance or \$0/\$1.55/\$4.50 for generics or \$0/\$4.60/\$11.20 for all other drugs

Cost	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
	<p>Catastrophic Coverage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During this payment stage, the plan pays most of the cost for your covered drugs. • For each prescription, you pay whichever of these is larger: a payment equal to 5% of the cost of the drug (this is called coinsurance), or a copayment (\$4.15 for a generic drug or a drug that is treated like a generic, and \$10.35 for all other drugs.). 	<p>Catastrophic Coverage:</p> <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.
<p>Maximum out-of-pocket amount This is the <u>most</u> you will pay out-of-pocket for your covered Part A and Part B services. (See Section 2.2 for details.)</p>	<p>\$8,300</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>\$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>

SECTION 1 Unless You Choose Another Plan, You Will Be Automatically Enrolled in Alterwood Advantage Dual Secure in 2024

If you do nothing in 2023, we will automatically enroll you in our Alterwood Advantage Dual Secure. This means starting January 1, 2024, you will be getting your medical and prescription drug coverage through Alterwood Advantage Dual Secure. If you want to change plans or switch to Original Medicare and get your prescription drug coverage through a Prescription Drug Plan you must do so between October 15 and December 7. The change will take effect on January 1, 2024.

SECTION 2 Changes to Benefits and Costs for Next Year

Section 2.1 – Changes to the Monthly Premium

Cost	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
<p>Monthly premium</p> <p>There is no change in your premium 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>	\$0	\$0

Section 2.2 – 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 Part A and Part B services for the rest of the year.

Cost	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
<p>Maximum out-of-pocket amount</p> <p>Because our members also get assistance from Medicaid, very few members ever reach this out-of-pocket maximum. 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 and deductibles) count toward your maximum out-of-pocket amount. Your plan premium and your costs for prescription drugs do not count toward your maximum out-of-pocket amount.</p>	<p>\$8,300</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$8,850</p> <p>Once you have paid \$8,850 out-of-pocket for covered Part A and Part B services, you will pay nothing for your covered Part A and Part B services for the rest of the calendar year.</p>

Section 2.3 – Changes to the Provider and Pharmacy Networks

Updated directories are located on our website at www.AlterwoodAdvantage.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 2024 *Provider & Pharmacy Directory* 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 2024 *Provider & Pharmacy Directory* to see which pharmacies are in our network.**

It is important that you know that we may make changes to the hospitals, doctors and 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 2.4 – 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	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
Dental Services	<p>The plan has an annual allowance of \$2,500 for all covered preventive and comprehensive dental services.</p> <p>You pay nothing for covered preventive dental services.</p> <p>You pay nothing for covered comprehensive dental services.</p>	<p>The plan has an annual allowance of \$3,500 for all covered preventive and comprehensive dental services.</p> <p>You pay nothing for covered preventive dental services.</p> <p>You pay nothing for covered comprehensive dental</p>
Durable Medical Equipment (DME)	<p>Prior authorization required for equipment or supplies exceeding \$500.</p>	<p>Prior authorization may be required for equipment and supplies.</p>
Flex Card	<p>The plan pays a quarterly benefit amount of \$150 towards covered over-the-counter products and essential pantry items.</p> <p>The plan pays a monthly benefit amount of \$50 towards utilities (such as gas, water, or electricity) for eligible members. <i>This benefit is part of a special supplemental program. All members may not qualify.</i></p>	<p>The plan pays a monthly benefit amount of \$140 towards covered over-the-counter products and essential pantry items.</p> <p>Eligible members may also apply monthly allowance towards utilities (such as gas, water, or electricity), grocery items, pest control, or housekeeping. <i>This portion of the benefit is part of a special supplemental program. All members may not qualify.</i></p>

Cost	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
<p>Health & Wellness Program</p>	<p>The plan will reimburse members up to \$150 annually towards the purchase of a fitness tracker, at-home fitness equipment, participation in instructional fitness classes, or gym membership.</p>	<p>The plan will reimburse members up to \$200 annually towards the purchase of a fitness tracker, at-home fitness equipment, participation in instructional fitness classes, or gym membership.</p>
<p>Medicare Part B Drugs</p>	<p>You pay 20% of the total cost of Medicare covered Part B drugs.</p> <p>Beginning April 2023, there were certain Part B drugs defined by CMS as part of the Medicare Prescription Drug Inflation Rebate program. Your cost-share for these Part B rebate drugs will range from 0-20%. These drugs and your cost-share may vary throughout the year.</p> <p>Beginning July 2023, the cost-share for insulin changed from 20% to no greater than \$35 for a one-month supply when administered through a DME such as an insulin pump.</p> <p>Because you are eligible for Medicare cost-sharing assistance under Medicaid, you pay a \$0 copayment amount.</p>	<p>In general, you pay 20% of the total cost of Medicare covered Part B drugs.</p> <p>There are certain Part B drugs defined by CMS as part of the Medicare Prescription Drug Inflation Rebate program. Your cost-share for these Part B rebate drugs will range from 0-20%. These drugs and your cost-share may vary throughout the year.</p> <p>You pay a copay of \$35 for a one-month supply of insulin when it is administered through DME such as an insulin pump.</p> <p>Because you are eligible for Medicare cost-sharing assistance under Medicaid, you pay a \$0 copayment amount.</p>

Cost	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Care	<p>You pay nothing each day from days 1 – 20 for a Medicare-covered skilled nursing facility stay.</p> <p>You pay a \$196 copay each day from days 21 –100 of a Medicare covered skilled nursing facility stay.</p> <p>Because you are eligible for Medicare cost-sharing assistance under Medicaid, you pay a \$0 copayment amount.</p>	<p>You pay nothing each day from days 1 – 20 for a Medicare-covered skilled nursing facility stay.</p> <p>You pay a \$203 copay each day from days 21 –100 of a Medicare covered skilled nursing facility stay.</p> <p>Because you are eligible for Medicare cost-sharing assistance under Medicaid, you pay a \$0 copayment amount.</p>

Section 2.5 – 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, during the year, we might make other changes that are allowed by Medicare rules. For instance, we can immediately remove drugs considered unsafe by the FDA or withdrawn from the market by a product manufacturer. We update our online “Drug List” to provide the most up to date list of drugs.

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.

Changes to Prescription Drug Costs

Note: If you are in a program that helps pay for your drugs (“Extra Help”), **the information about costs for Part D prescription drugs may not apply to you.** We sent you a separate insert, called the “Evidence of Coverage Rider for People Who Get Extra Help Paying for Prescription Drugs” (also called the Low-Income Subsidy Rider or the LIS Rider), which tells you about your drug costs. If you receive “Extra Help” and you haven’t received this insert by September 30, please call Member Services and ask for the LIS Rider.

There are four **drug payment stages**. The information below shows the changes to the first two stages – the Yearly Deductible Stage and the Initial Coverage Stage. (Most members do not reach the other two stages – the Coverage Gap Stage or the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.)

Changes to the Deductible Stage

Stage	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
<p>Stage 1: Yearly Deductible Stage</p> <p>During this stage, you pay the full cost of your Part D drugs until you have reached the yearly deductible. The deductible doesn't apply to covered insulin products and most adult Part D vaccines, including shingles, tetanus and travel vaccines.</p>	<p>Because we have no deductible, this payment stage does not apply to you.</p>	<p>Because we have no deductible, this payment stage does not apply to you.</p>

Changes to Your Cost Sharing in the Initial Coverage Stage

Stage	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
<p>Stage 2: Initial Coverage Stage</p> <p>During this stage, the plan pays its share of the cost of your drugs, and you pay your share of the cost.</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 with standard cost sharing:</p> <p>For generic drugs (including brand drugs treated as generic):</p> <p>You pay \$0, \$1.45, or \$4.15 per prescription.</p> <p>For all other drugs:</p> <p>You pay \$0, \$4.30, or \$10.35 per prescription.</p>	<p>Your cost for a one-month supply filled at a network pharmacy with standard cost sharing:</p> <p>For generic drugs (including brand drugs treated as generic):</p> <p>You pay \$0, \$1.55, or \$4.50 per prescription.</p> <p>For all other drugs:</p> <p>You pay \$0, \$4.60, or \$11.20 per prescription.</p>

Stage	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
<p>Stage 2: Initial Coverage Stage (continued)</p> <p>The costs in this row are for a one-month (30-day) supply when you fill your prescription at a network pharmacy that provides standard cost sharing. For information about the costs for a long-term supply or for mail-order prescriptions, look in Chapter 6, Section 5 of your <i>Evidence of Coverage</i>.</p>	<p>Once your total drug costs have reached \$4,660, you will move to the next stage (the Coverage Gap Stage).</p>	<p>Once your total drug costs have reached \$5,030, you will move to the next stage (the Coverage Gap Stage).</p>

Changes to the Coverage Gap and Catastrophic Coverage Stages

The other two drug coverage stages – the Coverage Gap Stage and the Catastrophic Coverage Stage – are for people with high drug costs. **Most members do not reach the Coverage Gap Stage or the Catastrophic Coverage Stage.**

Beginning in 2024, if you reach the Catastrophic Coverage Stage, you pay nothing for covered Part D drugs.

For specific information about your costs in these stages, look at Chapter 6, Sections 6 and 7, in your *Evidence of Coverage*.

SECTION 3 Administrative Changes

Description	2023 (this year)	2024 (next year)
Dental Benefit Provider Network	Facilitated through DentaQuest.	Facilitated through Dental Benefit Providers, Inc.

SECTION 4 Deciding Which Plan to Choose

Section 4.1 – If you want to stay in Alterwood Advantage Dual Secure

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 Alterwood Advantage Dual Secure.

Section 4.2 – If you want to change plans

We hope to keep you as a member next year but if you want to change plans for 2024 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 2024* handbook, call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see Section 6), or call Medicare (see Section 8.2).

As a reminder, Alterwood Advantage, Inc. offers other Medicare health plans. These other plans may differ in coverage, monthly premiums, and cost-sharing amounts.

Step 2: Change your coverage

- To **change to a different Medicare health plan**, enroll in the new plan. You will automatically be disenrolled from Alterwood Advantage Dual Secure.
- To **change to Original Medicare with a prescription drug plan**, enroll in the new drug plan. You will automatically be disenrolled from Alterwood Advantage Dual Secure.

- 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 5 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, 2024.

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 Maryland Medical Assistance (Medicaid), you may be able to end your membership in our plan or switch to a different plan one time during each of the following **Special Enrollment Periods**:

- January to March
- April to June
- July to September

If you enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan for January 1, 2024, and don’t like your plan choice, you can 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, 2024.

If you recently moved into, currently live in, or just moved out of 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.

SECTION 6 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 Maryland, the SHIP is called State Health Insurance Assistance Program.

It is a state program that gets money from the Federal government to give **free** local health insurance counseling to people with Medicare. State Health Insurance Assistance Program 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 State Health Insurance Assistance Program at 410-767-1100 or 800-243-3425. You can learn more about State Health Insurance Assistance Program by visiting their website (<https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/state-health-insurance-program.aspx>).

For questions about your Maryland Medical Assistance (Medicaid) benefits, contact Maryland Medical Assistance (Medicaid) at 410-767-5800 or toll free at 800-456-8900 (TTY: 711). Ask how joining another plan or returning to Original Medicare affects how you get your Maryland Medical Assistance (Medicaid) coverage.

SECTION 7 Programs That Help Pay for Prescription Drugs

You may qualify for help paying for prescription drugs. Below we list different kinds of help:

- **“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, annual deductibles and coinsurance. Because you qualify, you do not have a coverage gap or 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 (applications).
- **Help from your state’s pharmaceutical assistance program.** Maryland has a program called Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program (SPDAP) that helps people pay for prescription drugs based on their financial need, age, or medical condition. To learn more about the program, check with your State Health Insurance Assistance Program.
- **Prescription Cost-sharing Assistance for Persons with HIV/AIDS.** The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) helps ensure that ADAP-eligible individuals living with HIV/AIDS have access to life-saving HIV medications. Individuals must meet certain criteria, including proof of State residence and HIV status, low income as defined by the

State, and uninsured/under-insured status. Medicare Part D prescription drugs that are also covered by ADAP qualify for prescription cost-sharing assistance through the Maryland AIDS Drug Assistance Program. For information on eligibility criteria, covered drugs, or how to enroll in the program, please call 410-767-6535 or 800-205-6308.

SECTION 8 Questions?

Section 8.1 – Getting Help from Alterwood Advantage Dual Secure

Questions? We're here to help. Please call Member Services at 1-866-675-3944. (TTY only, call 711.) We are available for phone calls 8 am to 8 pm local time, seven (7) days a week from October 1 through March 31 and Monday through Friday from April 1 through September 30. Calls to this number is free.

Read your 2024 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 2024. For details, look in the *2024 Evidence of Coverage* for Alterwood Advantage Dual Secure. 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.AlterwoodAdvantage.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.AlterwoodAdvantage.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 8.2 – 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 2024*

Read the *Medicare & You 2024* 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 8.3 – Getting Help from Medicaid

To get information from Medicaid you can call Maryland Medical Assistance (Medicaid) at 410-767-5800 or toll free at 800-456-8900. TTY users should call 711.