



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY



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Medicare Part D

Medicare's Prescription Drug Plan

Quick Facts

- Effective January 1, 2006
- CMS expects physicians to direct beneficiaries to Medicare information
- Beneficiaries choose and enroll in a program
- Prescription drug plans (PDPs) offered in each state
- Medicare offering assistance to limited/low-income beneficiaries

Who's Eligible

- Beneficiaries with Medicare Part A
- Beneficiaries with Medicare Part B
- Beneficiaries with both Medicare Part A&B
- Beneficiaries in Medicare Advantage plans

Enrollment

- Begins November 15, 2005, runs through May 15, 2006
 - Coverage begins January 1, 2006 if enrolled before December 31, 2005
 - Coverage begins the first day of the month after the enrollment month if join after December 31, 2005
- If don't join by May 15, 2005, beneficiaries may pay a penalty (Penalty does not apply to beneficiaries having other equivalent drug coverage)
- Dual eligibles will automatically be enrolled in a plan
- Standing enrollment period will be November 15th through December 31st

Cost

Costs provided below are based on a standard plan

- Monthly premiums – average is \$32
- Yearly deductible - \$250
- Coinsurance/Copays
 - 25% coinsurance until coverage limit of \$2250 is met
 - After the \$2250 limit, beneficiary responsible for 100% of costs
- Catastrophic coverage begins when out of pocket expenses reach \$3600
 - After which, beneficiary will pay 5% or some limited copay for the remainder of the year

Costs will vary depending on plan chosen

Quick Details on Drugs

- PDPs will cover brand names and generic drugs (will vary depending on plan)
- Part D benefit does not affect coverage of Part B drugs (Part D is not meant to substitute drugs administered in the office)
- PDPs must provide drugs under the cancer drug category; however, not all drugs will be covered
- Some PDPs will have formularies
 - Plans must have exception procedures in place

Where are we with Part D?

- Medicare has released the PDPs available in each state
 - List of plans can be found at:
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/map/map.asp#AK>
- As of October 1st, individual plans can begin to advertise/market to beneficiaries
- CMS sending out Medicare & You books to beneficiaries now

How to Enroll?

- Various ways to enroll
 - Plan's paper application
 - Through plan's website
 - Medicare.gov
 - 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)
 - TTY 1-877-486-2048

Medicare[®]_{Rx} Prescription Drug Coverage

It's All Coming Together

Important Dates for People with Medicare during 2005 and 2006

MAY 2005

- Social Security Administration (SSA) begins mailing out and accepting applications for those who need extra help (low income subsidy) and begins holding local events in communities across the country.
- Medicare will mail letters to people who are automatically eligible for extra help with drug plan costs.

JUNE 2005

- Local community events continue through December.

JULY 2005

- Applications will be available online at www.socialsecurity.gov

AUGUST 2005

- SSA sends letters informing those who applied for extra help whether they qualify.

SEPTEMBER 2005

- Medigap (supplemental) insurance companies send notices to policyholders with drug coverage informing them of their options.
- Employers/unions who provide prescription drug coverage to their retirees will directly notify them about their new prescription drug coverage choices.
- "Your Guide to Medicare Prescription Drug Plans" is available by calling 1-800-MEDICARE or by visiting www.medicare.gov.

OCTOBER 2005

- Comparative information about Medicare prescription drug plans will be available at www.medicare.gov, 1-800-MEDICARE, or through State Health Insurance Assistance Programs and other local organizations.
- Medicare & You 2006 Handbook containing all the necessary information is mailed to all Medicare households.
- Medicare Advantage plans notify plan enrollees about enhanced drug plan coverage options via "Notification of Change."
- People with Medicare and Medicaid will get information about how they will be automatically enrolled in a plan if they do not choose one on their own.
- Medicare plans that offer drug coverage begin marketing.

NOVEMBER 2005

- Enrollment for Medicare prescription drug plans begins November 15. People must call the company offering the plan to enroll or enroll through 1-800-MEDICARE.

DECEMBER 2005

- People should enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan now to pay lower premiums and to receive prescription drug coverage when it begins January 1, 2006.

Enrollment Begins November 15, 2005

JANUARY 2006

- Medicare prescription drug coverage begins January 1 for those who enrolled in a plan by December 31, 2005.
- Medicare begins to provide prescription drug coverage for those who have Medicare and full Medicaid coverage.

FEBRUARY 2006

*Enrollment continues.
Medicare prescription drug coverage
begins in the following month.*

MARCH 2006

APRIL-MAY 2006

- Medicare will send a reminder to those who have not enrolled in a Medicare prescription drug plan.
- May 15 is the last day to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan and pay lower premiums.
- Facilitated enrollment of those who qualify for extra help and have not yet chosen a plan; coverage effective June 1.

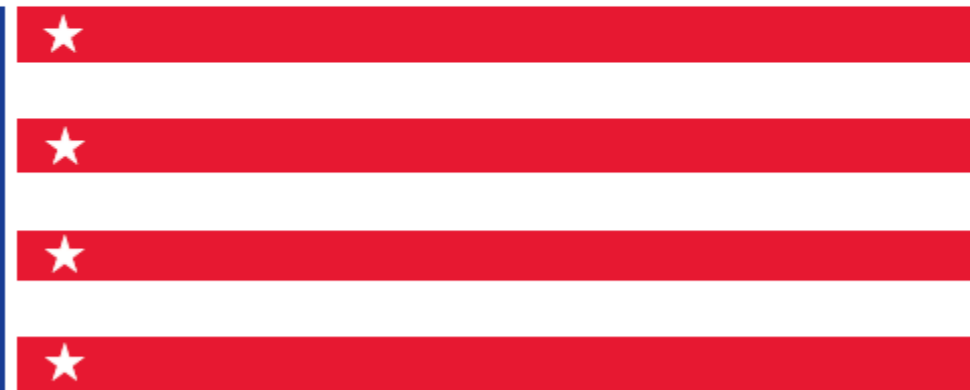
Resources

- CMS does not expect physicians to answer questions relating to Part D
- CMS does, however, expect physicians to direct beneficiaries to the appropriate resources
- Variety of resources currently available and more to come

Resources – Medicare & You Handbook

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

Medicare & You



2006

Resources – Medicare & You Handbook (cont.)

- Medicare & You Handbook – mailed by CMS to Medicare beneficiaries (beginning of October)
- Provides a brief overview of Medicare benefits and what resources are available to beneficiaries.
 - Contains details about Part D
- <http://www.medicare.gov/publications/pubs/pdf/10050.pdf>



Resources – Medicare.gov



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The Official U.S. Government Site for People with Medicare

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RSS

[Information on the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage](#)
NEW!

[Medicare & You 2006](#) **NEW!**

[Hurricane Katrina Information for people with Medicare and Medicaid and providers.](#) **NEW!**

[My.Medicare.gov National Rollout Underway](#)

Resources – Medicare.gov (cont.)

- Medicare.gov is designed for beneficiaries, family members, and care givers
- Contains multiple resources on Part D
 - Frequently Asked Questions document
 - Plan cost estimator (tool that estimates cost savings to beneficiaries if join a PDP)
 - Information for beneficiaries having limited/low income



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Resources – CMS Website

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The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is a Federal agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. To learn more, visit [About CMS](#).

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Spotlight

RSS

- [New Drug Coverage Includes Options for Additional Benefits and Saving Money](#)
- [Hurricane Katrina / Rita Information for People with Medicare and Medicaid and Providers](#)

Resources – CMS Website (cont.)

- CMS created a page on their site for provider partnerships.
 - <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/>
 - Can access the partnership page from the CMS home page
- Most initiatives focusing on Part D
 - Training workshop for Part D
 - Free sessions
 - Available in October and November
 - Held regionally
 - Toolkits for physicians available



Resources – CMS Website (cont.)

- Brochures and pamphlets available for ordering
 - <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/news/ma/default.asp>
- Forthcoming tool – Drug Plan Finder web tool
 - allows anyone to search for a plan that fits their needs
 - Can find a plan based on current prescriptions
 - Review drug formularies
 - Review costs

How do I get this Prescription Drug Coverage?

You may sign up for a prescription drug plan starting on **November 15, 2005**.

If you sign up by December 31, 2005 your coverage will start on January 1, 2006.

Please note: If you sign up after December 31, 2005, your coverage will start the month after you sign up.

Remember you must join a plan if you want to get this coverage.

Joining will help you get the medicines you need now and in the future.



Important Dates for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage:

October 2005
Medicare & You handbook with more information on how to sign up.

November 15, 2005
Sign up starts.

January 1, 2006
Coverage starts for those who signed up by December 31, 2005.

May 15, 2006
Last day to sign up in 2006. Remember to join by this date or you will have to wait until November 15, 2006 to join and you may pay higher premiums.



MedicareRx
Prescription Drug Coverage



Partnership for
Clear Health Communication

MedicareRx
Prescription Drug Coverage

Prescription drug coverage is available for all people in Medicare.

Sign up starts on November 15, 2005

Look inside for answers to these three questions:

- What does the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage do for me?
- How do I get this Prescription Drug Coverage?
- How do I sign up?

Ongoing Actions

- Journal of Oncology Practice (JOP) November issue has feature article on Part D
- Developing tools for members
- Work with CMS to answer specific questions relating to oncology and coverage of Part D drugs
 - Please submit questions to tomkinsj@asco.org