



Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs INDIAN HEALTH

MedicareRx
Prescription Drug Coverage X

QUICK FACTS

American Indians and Alaska Natives who Live in Nursing Homes or Certain Types of Long-term Care Facilities

Starting January 1, 2006, many Indian health facilities will participate in Medicare prescription drug coverage for people with Medicare. In order to get Medicare prescription drug coverage, you will need to join a Medicare prescription drug plan.

What do I need to know?

- You can first join a Medicare prescription drug plan from November 15, 2005–May 15, 2006. In most cases, if you don't join during this period your next chance to enroll will be November 15, 2006–December 31, 2006.
- If you are not able to join on your own, your authorized representative can enroll you in a plan that meets your needs.
- If you have full benefit coverage from Medicaid, your prescription drugs stop being covered by Medicaid, and start being covered by Medicare on January 1, 2006. If you do not enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan by December 31, 2005, Medicare will enroll you in a plan automatically so that your coverage will not be interrupted. You can change to another Medicare prescription drug plan at any time.
- If you have full benefit coverage from Medicaid and live in a nursing home, you will pay nothing for your Medicare prescription drugs out of your own pocket.
- Ask your local Indian health provider about prescription drug plans available to you.
- Some nursing homes and other long-term care facilities have their own pharmacies. If you are a resident of a tribal nursing home or long-term care program your drugs may be covered through an Indian health pharmacy. Check with your local nursing home administrator.
- If you move into a nursing home or other long-term care facility, you can switch Medicare prescription drug plans at that time if you choose.



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- There is extra help to pay for your prescription drug coverage for people with Medicare with limited income and resources, including people who participate in Medicare Savings Programs and people who receive Supplemental Security Income.

How can I get more information?

For more information on how to enroll see your local nursing home administrator, your pharmacist or check with the benefits coordinator at your local Indian health pharmacy. Detailed information will be available soon.

- You can look at the *Medicare & You 2006* handbook, visit www.medicare.gov on the web or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. For more information on who can get extra help with prescription drug costs and how to apply, call SSA at 1-800-772-1213 or visit www.socialsecurity.gov on the web.
- Visit www.medicare.gov on the web. Select “search tools” to get personalized information.
- Call your State Pharmacy Assistance Program (see your copy of the *Medicare & You 2006* handbook for the telephone number).
- Contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP).

CONTACT YOUR INDIAN HEALTH PROVIDER

