CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

Quick Facts about Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs for people who get help from their state pharmacy program to pay for their prescriptions.

Starting January 1, 2006, Medicare will offer prescription drug plans to help you pay for the prescriptions you need. If you don't join a Medicare prescription drug plan by May 15, 2006, you will pay a higher premium.

What do I need to know?

- Each state will decide how its State Pharmacy Assistance Program will work with Medicare prescription drug coverage. Some states may choose to give extra coverage when you join a Medicare prescription drug plan. Some states may have a separate state program that helps with prescriptions.
- You should contact your State Pharmacy Assistance Program to get more information. The table at the end of this fact sheet lists the phone numbers for each State Pharmacy Assistance Program.
- Many people with limited income and resources will get extra help paying for their prescription drug coverage. If you have limited income and in 2006 your resources are less than $11,500 (single) or $23,000 (married), you may qualify for this extra help. People with the lowest incomes and resources will get the most help.
- Some people will automatically qualify and Medicare will send them a letter to let them know. Some people who may qualify will receive a letter and an application form from the Social Security Administration (SSA). If you get an application in the mail fill it out and mail it in the postage paid envelope included. If you don't get an application in the mail from SSA but think you qualify for extra help contact SSA at 1-800-772-1213 or visit www.socialsecurity.gov on the web.

How can I get more information?

Call your State Pharmacy Assistance Program at the number provided at the end of this fact sheet. Detailed information will be available in **October 2005**. 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.

How can I get more information? (continued)

Call your State Pharmacy Assistance Program at the phone number on the table.

State	Name of Program	Phone Number
Connecticut	ConnPace	800-423-5026 800-994-9422
Delaware	Delaware Prescription Assistance Program (DPAP)	800-996-9969 x17
Illinois	Illinois SeniorCare or Circuit Breaker and Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs	800-226-0768 800-624-2459
Indiana	Hoosier Rx	866-267-4679
Kansas	Kansas Senior Pharmacy Assistance Program	785-296-4986 800-432-3535
Maryland	Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program or Senior Short Term Prescription Drug Plan	800-226-2142 800-972-4612
Massachusetts	Prescription Advantage	800-243-4636
Maine	Maine Rx Plus or Maine Low Cost Drugs for the Elderly and Disabled Program	866-796-2463 800-262-2232
Michigan	Michigan's Elder Prescription Insurance Coverage	866-747-5844
Minnesota	Minnesota's Prescription Drug Program	800-333-2433
Missouri	Missouri Senior Rx Program	800-375-1406
North Carolina	North Carolina Senior Care	866-226-1388
New Jersey	Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged & Disabled or Senior Gold Prescription Discount	800-792-9745
Nevada	Senior Rx	866-303-6323
New York	Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) Program	800-332-3742
Pennsylvania	PACE-Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly or PACENET	800-225-7223
Rhode Island	R.I. Pharmaceutical Assistance Program to the Elderly (RIPAE)	401-462-3000
Texas	Kidney Health Care Program	800-222-3986
Vermont	VHAP (Vermont Health Access Plan) Pharmacy Benefit or VSCRIPT	800-250-8427
Wisconsin	Senior Care	800-657-2038
Wyoming	Prescription Drug Assistance Program	800-438-5785

Note: States that aren't listed don't have one of these programs.

CMS Pub. No. 11108
May 2005