CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

Quick Facts about Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs for people with limited income and resources

Starting January 1, 2006, Medicare will offer prescription drug coverage for all people with Medicare. If you have Medicare and have limited income and resources, you may qualify for extra help paying for prescription drugs.

What do I need to know?

- If your annual **income** is below $14,355 for a single person (or $19,245 if you are married and living with your spouse), you may qualify for extra help. Slightly higher income levels may apply if you provide ½ support to other family members living with you, or if you work or reside in Alaska and Hawaii.
- And if your **resources** (including your savings and stocks, but not counting your home or car) are under $11,500 (for a single person) or under $23,000 (for a married couple) you may qualify for extra help paying for your Medicare prescription drug costs.
- You can apply for this extra help through the Social Security Administration or your State Medical Assistance Office. Social Security is mailing the application for extra help to those who may qualify. If you receive an application, fill it out and return it in the enclosed postage paid envelope.
- The amount of extra help you get depends on your income and resources.
- You still need to join a Medicare prescription drug plan for Medicare to pay for your drug costs.
- You can join a Medicare prescription drug plan from November 15, 2005 through May 15, 2006. If you join by December 31, 2005, your coverage begins January 1, 2006. If you join after January 1, 2006, your coverage starts the first day of the month after the month you join.
- If you qualify for extra help, you will have continuous drug coverage and will pay only a small amount for your prescriptions.

How do I get more information?

For more information on who can get extra help with prescription drug costs and how to apply, call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213, or visit www.socialsecurity.gov on the web. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778.

You will receive detailed information from Medicare about your choice of Medicare prescription drug plans 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.

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