



CHIIP

California Health Incentives
Improvement Project

A project of the California Institute on Human Services, Sonoma State University

Funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Changes to Medicare and Medi-Cal will affect you January 1, 2006.

Beginning January 1, 2006, your Medi-Cal prescription drug coverage will be replaced by the new Medicare Part D Prescription Drug program. It is important that you know how the changes may affect you so that you can continue to get the prescription drugs you need.

Because you are eligible for Medi-Cal through the Working Disabled program,

- ✓ You will not have to pay any premium or deductible for your prescription drug plan (PDP) if you enroll in one of the plans on the enclosed California Stand-Alone Prescription Drug Plan list that has a marking in the No Premium column.
- ✓ Your costs (called co-payments) for prescription drugs will be \$2.00 for each generic prescription drug and \$5.00 for each brand-name prescription drug.

There are two ways you can get your prescription drugs:

- 1) If you are currently enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan, Medicare's Health Maintenance Organization plan, you will be assigned to that Medicare Advantage Plan's prescription drug coverage.
- 2) If you are not enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan, you can sign up for a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDP). In early November, you received a letter from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services telling you to choose a plan from Medicare PDPs available in your area. If you don't select and enroll in a plan of your choice by December 31, 2005, you will be enrolled automatically in the plan indicated in that letter starting January 1, 2006.

Important steps you should take now:

- ✓ Use the enclosed brochure to help you organize information about your medication needs so that you can choose which plan is best for you. Write down each prescription drug you take in the space provided.
- ✓ Go to www.medicare.gov to Compare the Prescription Drug

Not all drugs are covered by all plans. Prescription Drug Plans will cover only those drugs that are on their formulary, the plan's list of "preferred" drugs. If there are drugs you need that are not on the formulary, you will need to choose a different PDP or work with your doctor to find a drug on the formulary that will work for you.

Call the Health Rights Hotline toll free 1-888-354-4474. TTY/TDD 916-551-2180. Hotline counselors can work with you to help you understand the new Medicare Part D Prescription Drug program and direct you to other community-based resources.

Plans available in California:

- Use the Formulary Finder to find which plans include the drugs you need.
 - Find out what the copayments are for drugs you need.
 - Check to see which plans include the pharmacy you use in their network, or to find a different pharmacy that is close to you. Pick the plan that best meets your needs.
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Even if you do not have any questions about the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug program, we encourage you to call the Health Rights Hotline (1-888-354-4474) and participate in a brief, confidential, survey about your experience with work and health care services in California.

Notice from the California Health Incentives Improvement Project:

Medi-Cal did not give us your name and address to mail out this information. We sent this mailing to Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal attached the mailing labels with your name and address and sent the mailing on to you. This mailing has been fully funded by a Medicaid Infrastructure Grant from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, grant number P-93299/9.
