



## Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs INDIAN HEALTH

MedicareRx  
Prescription Drug Coverage X

QUICK FACTS

### American Indians and Alaska Natives Who Get **Supplemental Security Income** Benefits or **Help from Medicaid** Paying Their Medicare Premiums

Starting January 1, 2006, many Indian health facilities will participate in Medicare prescription drug plans to provide the prescriptions you need. Joining a Medicare prescription drug plan may benefit you and your community. Medicare will send you a letter and the *Medicare & You 2006* handbook with more information.

#### What do I need to know?

- You must join a Medicare prescription drug plan for you and your community to benefit from this coverage.
- You automatically qualify for extra help for your prescription drug costs.
- You can join a Medicare prescription drug plan starting November 15, 2005 through May 15, 2006.
- Join a plan by December 31, 2005, and choose the plan used by your pharmacy.
- If you don't join a plan by May 15, 2006, Medicare will enroll you in a plan to make sure that you receive this important benefit and do not have to pay a penalty for late enrollment.
- Ask your local Indian health provider about prescription drug plans available to you.
- Joining a Medicare prescription drug plan could help your Indian healthcare provider save money and increase services to your community.



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## How can I get more information?

For more information on how to join see your pharmacist or check with the benefits coordinator at your local Indian health pharmacy. Detailed information is available now.

You can look at the *Medicare & You 2006* handbook, visit [www.medicare.gov](http://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](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) on the web.

\*Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a monthly benefit paid by the Social Security Administration to people with limited income and resources who are disabled, blind or age 65 or older. SSI benefits are not the same as Social Security Benefits.

## CONTACT YOUR INDIAN HEALTH PROVIDER

QUICK FACTS

