

Medicare Newsletter Article for Consumers
Story in Three Parts
July 20, 2005

STORY THREE

**What You Need to Know About Medicare and Diabetes
An Update from the National Diabetes Education Program and
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
*New Medicare Prescription Drug Plans Begin January 2006***

There is good news from Medicare for people with diabetes--and those at risk for the disease. Over the past few years, Medicare has made several changes in its benefits related to preventive care and diabetes. Here is an update about Medicare and diabetes to help you get the most out of your health care insurance. This is the third of three columns.

New Medicare Prescription Drug Plans Begin January 2006

January 1, 2006 marks the beginning of Medicare prescription drug plans for people who choose to enroll in them. This is the new "Part D" plan of Medicare. These plans may provide coverage for certain diabetes medications.

Enrollment in the new drug plans begins November 15, 2005. **If you do not enroll within 6 months of the date you become eligible for Part D coverage, Medicare may charge you a higher premium for your drug coverage.** People who are currently on Medicare should enroll during the initial enrollment period (November 15, 2005 to May 15, 2006) to avoid a penalty. Until the new plans take effect, Medicare-approved drug discount cards are available now.

For More Information

There are many resources where you can find more information about Medicare and diabetes as well as helpful tips for controlling and preventing diabetes. The National Diabetes Education Program has pulled this information together to help you control your diabetes for life.

Medicare Information

1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or 1-877-486-2048 for TTY users.
<http://www.medicare.gov>

Diabetes Information and Resources

National Diabetes Education Program
1-800-438-5383
<http://www.ndep.nih.gov>

American Association of Diabetes Educators
To find a diabetes educator:

1-800-TEAM-UP4 (1-800-832-6874)

<http://www.aadenet.org>

American Diabetes Association

1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383)

<http://www.diabetes.org>

American Dietetic Association

1-800-366-1655

<http://www.eatright.org> and click on “Find a Nutrition Professional”

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1-877-232-3422

<http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/index.htm>

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

1-800-533-CURE (800-633-4227)

<http://www.jdrf.org>

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
of the National Institutes of Health

1-800-860-8747

<http://www.niddk.nih.gov>