

Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Fact Sheet

Beginning January 1, 2006, Medicare will begin providing prescription drug coverage through Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs) that offer drug-only coverage or through Medicare Advantage Plans (MA-PDs) that offer both drug and health care coverage. Both types of plans must offer a standard drug benefit but may also offer an enhanced drug benefit. Certain drugs are excluded from Medicare coverage. These include over-the-counter (OTC) drugs, benzodiazepines, and barbiturates. Drugs and biological products that are paid for by Medicare Part A or B are excluded from Part D.

Individuals eligible for Medicare Part A and/or Part B are eligible for Part D.

Individuals will be able to select and enroll in a PDP or a MA-PD. There is an initial enrollment period from November 15, 2005 through May 15, 2006. There will be an annual open enrollment period for Part D. There are also special enrollment periods under certain circumstances.

The standard drug benefit includes:

- A monthly premium of about \$37
- A yearly deductible of \$250
- Between \$250 and \$2250, the individual pays 25% - this equals \$500 in out-of-pocket expenses
- Between \$2250 and \$5100, the individual pays for all drug costs- this is known as the coverage gap or the donut hole. This equals \$2850 in out-of-pocket expenses.
- After a total of \$5100 in drug expenses [or \$3600 total out-of-pocket expenses ($\$250 + \$500 + \$2850 = \3600)], the individual pays the greater of \$2 generic/\$5 brand or 5% as a co-payment.

Individuals with limited income and resources may be eligible for “extra help” (also known as the low-income subsidy or LIS). The LIS will provide help with the monthly premium, the yearly deductible, the coverage gap, and the co-payments after the individual reaches \$3600 in out-of-pocket expenses. Providers should direct questions about the LIS to the Social Security Administration (SSA). SSA will accept and process applications for the LIS.

Individuals and providers will be receiving information from many sources including Medicare, SSA, PDPs, MA-PDs, Delaware Prescription Assistance Program (DPAP), Chronic Renal Disease Program (CRDP), DHSS, and others.

Social Security

1-800-772-1213

TTY 1-800-325-0778

<http://www.ssa.gov/>

MEDICARE

1-800-MEDICARE

1-800-633-4227

TTY 1-877-486-2048

<http://www.medicare.gov/>

DMAP Provider Relations

1-800-999-3371 or 302-454-7154

<http://www.dmap.state.de.us>

Chronic Renal Disease Program

CRDP can be contacted by

calling the Delaware Helpline

at 1-800-464-4357 (ask to be transferred to CRDP)

or by calling 1-302- 424-7180

DPAP Customer Service

1-800-996-9969

DSS Customer Relations

1-800-372-2022

DMAP Client Pharmacy Call Center

1-800-996-9969