

# Medicare Modernization Act

## Open enrollment begins for Medicare Part D

### It's Open Enrollment Time!

Open enrollment for Medicare Part D prescription coverage begins **November 15, 2005**. There are several ways to enroll:

- **By paper application.** Contact the company offering the drug plan you choose and ask for an application. Once you fill out the form, mail or fax it back to the company.
- **On the plan's Web site.** Visit the drug plan company's Web site. You may be able to join online.
- **On the Medicare Web site.** You will also be able to join a drug plan at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) by using Medicare's online enrollment center. More information is available through the online tool, the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder.
- **By calling 1-800-MEDICARE.** You can join a drug plan by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) and talking to a Medicare customer service representative. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

### Medicare Drug Plan Finder Tool is now available

More detailed information about the plans is available by using the Drug Plan Finder tool located on [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). A Personalized Plan Search requires the following information be entered by the consumer to receive a report of plans available to them:

- Medicare claim number
- Last name
- Date of birth
- Effective date of Medicare Part A or B
- Zip code

If a consumer does not want to enter their personal information on the Web site, they may perform a General Plan Search which requires the following information:

- Zip code
- Current prescription drug coverage (employer, retiree plan, Medigap, HMO, etc)
- Asks if you are eligible for extra help from Social Security Administration

### Medicare Part D Important Dates

#### November 15, 2005

Open enrollment begins

#### December 31, 2005

Last day for Medicaid drug coverage for individuals with Medicare (dual eligibles)

#### January 1, 2006

Medicare coverage begins for individuals who have joined by December 31, 2005

#### May 15, 2006

Last day to join a plan offering coverage for 2006

#### November 15 - December 31, 2006

Next opportunity to enroll

The Formulary Finder is another tool that can be used to narrow down the plans available for a consumer. Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov), choose Ohio, and then search for drugs. Enter the names of the drugs you currently take (or use the search drug list). Once you enter all the drugs you use, the finder will provide two lists. The first is a list of PDPs that cover **all** of the drugs on your list and the second is a list of PDPs that cover **some** of the drugs on your list. It is important to make sure all drugs are considered, not just the psychotropic drugs a consumer is prescribed.

For those who do not have access to the Internet, customer service representatives at 1-800-MEDICARE will be available to enter their prescription information and mail a copy of the report that is generated at no cost to the consumer.

### No Premium with Full Income Subsidy Prescription Drug Plans

Dual eligible consumers will be auto-enrolled into one of the ten Prescription Drug Plans listed on the opposite page.

Organization Name	Plan Name	Web site	Phone
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield	Blue MedicareRx Value	www.bmedicarerx.com/jsp/bmedicarerx/home.jsp or www.anthem.com	1-800-467-8065
First Health Premier	First Health Premier	www.firsthealthpremier.com	1-800-588-3322
Humana Inc.	Humana PDP Standard S5884-072	www.humana-medicare.com/medicare-part-d.asp	1-800-281-6918
PacifiCare Life and Health Insurance Company	PacifiCare Saver Plan	www.prescriptionsolution.com	1-800-943-0399
Qcc d/b/a AmeriHealth Advantage Rx	AmeriHealth Advantage Rx Option I	www.performrx.com/member/aa/index.asp	1-866-456-1694
SilverScript	SilverScript	www.silverscript.com	1-866-552-6106
Unicare	Medicare RX Rewards	www.unicare.com	1-866-892-5335
United Healthcare	AARP MedicareRx Plan	www.aarpmedicarerx.com	1-888-867-5564
United Healthcare	United Medicare MedAdvance	www.aarpmedicarerx.com	1-888-556-6657
WellCare	WellCare Signature	www.wellcarepdp.com/	1-888-423-5252

## Medicaid will continue to cover some Prescription Drugs for Dual Eligibles

For dual eligibles, Ohio Medicaid will continue to cover benzodiazepines, barbituates, vitamins (except potassium, prenatal vitamins and fluoride), cough suppressants, and over-the-counter drugs that do not have a Medicare Part D-covered equivalent.

## Important Refill Information

Dually eligible patients who are concerned about the change to Medicare Part D coverage may wish to fill their prescriptions a little earlier at the end of December, so they will have more time in January to figure out their new coverage. Ohio Medicaid allows refills after 75 percent of a prescription has been used (for example, after 22 days of a 30-day prescription). Prescriptions may also be filled for up to 34 days (for acute medications) or 102 days (for chronic medications, including those for cardiovascular conditions, depression, and diabetes). The pharmacy can not fill a prescription for more than the amount authorized by the doctor, so ask the doctor to write the prescription for a longer supply to take advantage of this rule.

After Medicare Part D coverage begins, the patient can refill their prescription a week or two earlier than normal to be sure that the prescription will be covered without any limits on quantity or prior authorization. This will give the patient, pharmacist, and doctor extra time to straighten out any potential problems before the patient is out of medication. Each PDP has a transition plan in place to help people determine how to resolve any discrepancies of drug coverage. For example, some plans may allow a 30-day refill of a non-covered drug while the plan and the consumer work through an appeal or change coverage. This is an important question to ask during enrollment.

## Training

The Ohio Behavioral Health System Medicare Part D workgroup sponsored a video conference training on October 21, 2005 with an encore presentation on October 26, 2005. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the presentation, please email [MH\\_PARTD@mh.state.oh.us](mailto:MH_PARTD@mh.state.oh.us) for more information.

The Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program is also sponsoring enrollment fairs, education fairs and public speaking engagements. Visit their Web site, <http://www.ohioinsurance.gov/prescriptiondrugs/index.asp>, and choose the "Calendar of Events" link to find training opportunities in your area.

## Web site

For up-to-date information, please visit the ODMH Medicare Part D Web page at <http://www.mh.state.oh.us/medicaid/partd/medicaid.medicarepartd.html>.