



Related MLN Matters Article #: SE0559

Date Posted: June 20, 2005

Related CR #: N/A

### *New Educational Products Available on Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage – The Eighth in the MLN Matters Series*

#### Key Words

SE0559, Educational, Prescription, Drug, Coverage, MA-PD, PDP, Brochure, Course, Sheet, Poster, MMA

#### Provider Types Affected

Physicians, health care professionals, providers, suppliers, and staff who provide service to people with Medicare

#### Key Points

- On January 1, 2006, new prescription drug coverage will be available to all people with Medicare.
- It will cover brand name and generic drugs.
- Drugs that are currently covered by Medicare Part B will continue to be covered by Part B.
- Medicare prescription drug coverage under Part D will be administered through Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plans (MA-PDs) and Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs).
- For Medicare beneficiaries who join a MA-PD or a PDP, their provider must have a contractual relationship with that MA-PD or PDP to bill and receive payment from the plans for that individual's covered prescription drugs.
- Fee-For Service (FFS) providers cannot bill Medicare fiscal intermediaries (FIs) or carriers for Part D covered drugs.
- The new drug coverage is not automatic - all people with Medicare will need to make a decision this Fall. Since providers are a trusted source, their patients may turn to them for information.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is looking to physicians, health care professionals, providers, suppliers, and staff who provide service to people with Medicare to take advantage of this "teachable moment" and help their Medicare patients learn more about this new coverage.
- If the provider's Medicare patients ask them questions about the new coverage, they can refer them to 1-800-MEDICARE and to <http://www.medicare.gov> for additional information and assistance.

- New products are available to download at the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Information *for* Providers web page at [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/23\\_drugcoverage.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/23_drugcoverage.asp) on the CMS website.
- The new products include the following:
  - **Medicare Rx Training Course: Important Information for Health Care Professionals – Earn Continuing Education Credit** – includes information on the fundamental components of the Medicare prescription drug coverage program, types of drug plans available, resources for people with Medicare and health care professionals, and important dates in 2005 and 2006;
  - **Physician Brochure** – Explains the new Medicare prescription drug coverage for physicians and their staff;
  - **Physician Tear-off Sheet** – Appropriate for distribution in physicians' offices and other clinical settings – contains basic information on the new coverage and contact numbers for each state's State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) that will direct people with Medicare to resources for individual counseling and
  - **"Have Limited Income? SSA Can Help" - Posters for Your Office or Clinic** – Directs people with Medicare who have limited income and resources to sources for help with prescription drug costs. To view and order the posters go to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/MPUB/list.asp#TopOfPage> on the CMS website.
- New publications for people with Medicare that explain various aspects of the new coverage are available at <http://www.medicare.gov/pdphome.asp> on the CMS website.

### Important Links

The related MLN Matters article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0559.pdf> on the CMS website.