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More Web-based Educational Products Available on Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage – The Fifth in the Medlearn Matters Series

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers, suppliers, and their staff providing service to people with Medicare

Important Points to Remember

- On January 1, 2006, new prescription drug coverage will be available to your Medicare patients.
- It will cover brand name and generic drugs.
- This new drug coverage requires all people with Medicare to make a decision this fall. As a trusted source, your patients may turn to you for information about this new coverage. Because of this, we're looking to you and your staff to take advantage of this "teachable moment" and help your Medicare patients.
- You should encourage your Medicare patients to learn more about this new coverage because it may save them money on prescription drugs. There is extra help available for people with limited income and resources.
- If your Medicare patients ask you questions about the new coverage, you can refer them to 1-800-MEDICARE and to <http://www.medicare.gov> for additional information and assistance.

New Fact Sheets Available on <http://www.medicare.gov>

There are fact sheets now available that explain Medicare's new prescription drug coverage that can help your patients understand this new coverage:

- *Quick Facts about Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs* - Publication Number 11102. This fact sheet provides basic information about Medicare's new prescription drug coverage. (2 pages) <http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11102.pdf>
- *Quick Facts about Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs for People with Limited Income and Resources* – Publication Number 11105. This fact sheet provides basic information about Medicare's new prescription drug coverage for a person with limited income and resources. (2 pages) <http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11105.pdf>

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- *Quick Facts about Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs If You Applied for Extra Help* – Publication Number 11130. This fact sheet explains what you need to know after applying for extra help paying Medicare prescription drug coverage costs. (2 pages)
<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11130.pdf>
- *Quick Facts about Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs for People Who Get Supplemental Security Income* – Publication Number 11116. This fact sheet provides basic information about Medicare's new prescription drug coverage for a person who gets Supplemental Security Income benefits or help from their state Medicaid program paying their Medicare premiums. (2 pages)
<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11116.pdf>
- *Quick Facts about Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs for People with Medicare and Medicaid* – Publication Number 11106. This fact sheet provides basic information about Medicare's new prescription drug coverage for a person with full Medicaid benefits. (2 pages)
<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11106.pdf>
- *Quick Facts about Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs for People Who are Nursing Home Residents* – Publication Number 11121. This fact sheet explains how the new Medicare prescription drug coverage works for nursing home residents. (2 pages)
<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11121.pdf>
- *Quick Facts about Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs for People Who Get Help From Their State Pharmacy Program* – Publication Number 11108. This fact sheet explains what people who get help from their state pharmacy program to pay for their prescriptions need to know about the new Medicare prescription drug coverage. (2 pages)
<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11108.pdf>
- *Do You Have a Medigap Policy with Prescription Drug Coverage?* – Publication Number 11113. This fact sheet explains how the new Medicare prescription drug coverage works for people who have a Medigap policy with prescription drug coverage. (4 pages).
<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11113.pdf>
- *Medicare Covers America* - Publication Number 11141. This brochure provides basic information for people with Medicare about Medicare prescription drug coverage. This information includes how Medicare prescription drug coverage works, how to get coverage, and how to join a Medicare prescription drug plan. (2 pages) <http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11141.pdf>
- *Introducing Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage* - Publication Number 11142. This brochure provides basic information to people with Medicare about Medicare prescription drug coverage. This information includes who can join, when people can join, and when more information will be available. (2 pages)
<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11142.pdf>

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New Fact Sheets and Tip Sheets Available on the CMS Web site at
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarerereform/factsheets.asp>

- *The Facts about Medicare Prescription Drug Plans* – Publication Number 11065. This fact sheet provides basic introductory information about Medicare's new prescription drug coverage. (2 pages)
<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/pubs/pdf/11065.pdf>
- Quick Facts about Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs (en Espanol) – Publication Number 11102-S. This fact sheet provides basic information about Medicare's new prescription drug coverage, in Spanish.
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarerereform/elnewcovprescdrug.pdf>
- *Medicaid Spend Down – Tip Sheet* (3 pages) This tip sheet provides an example of the spend down requirement for patients who have Medicaid because of high medical expenses. This sheet shows the qualifications for patients to receive extra help.
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarerereform/medicaid%20spend%20down.pdf>
- *Food Stamps – Tip Sheet* (3 pages) This tip sheet provides information on income limits, resource limits and qualifications for extra help for people who have Medicare and are also on food stamps.
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarerereform/foodstamps.pdf>
- *Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage and other Federal Means -Tested Programs – Tip Sheet* (2 pages) This tip sheet is intended to help explain how Medicare prescription drug coverage will work with other federal means-tested programs such as food stamps, HUD housing assistance, Medicaid, low income home energy assistance, and supplemental security income.
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarerereform/lowincome.pdf>

Other Publications/Products

- *Introducing Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs (bi-fold)* – This pamphlet provides general information about the New Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage, such as who can join, when, and the cost to join, as well as providing sources for additional information. This pamphlet is available at
<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11103.pdf>
- *Vignettes/Bios/Case Studies*– These vignettes can be used to help explain how Medicare prescription drug coverage works with and affects other types of health care coverage. They can be used to supplement other outreach materials. (10 pages). These vignettes are available at
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/news/mma/vignettesfinal.pdf>
- *Introducing Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs (Russian, Korean, Vietnamese, and Chinese)*- To access this product, go to <http://www.medicare.gov/medicarerereform/default.asp>. At the middle of the web page, select the language desired from the drop-down menu. This will reveal a link to the document in the desired language.

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Outreach Toolkit

A new Outreach Toolkit is also available. This toolkit is designed to equip community-level organizations with the materials needed to provide clear, accurate information and assistance about Medicare prescription drug coverage for their clients.

The toolkit contains basic, straightforward information that can be easily conveyed to people with Medicare. You can view and download this kit online from the CMS web site, as well as order a copy to be shipped to your office, by visiting:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/tools/materials/medicaretraining/MPDCoutreachkit.asp> on the CMS web site.

Additional Information

More information on provider education and outreach regarding drug coverage can be found at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/drugcoverage.asp> on the CMS web site.

Detailed drug coverage information for CMS partners and advocates for people with Medicare can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/news/mma/default.asp> on the CMS web site.

You can also find additional information regarding prescription drug plans at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pdps/> on the CMS web site.

Further information on CMS implementation of the MMA can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarerereform/> on the CMS web site.

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