Related MLN Matters Article #: SE0501

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MMA - Coming Soon - The New Medicare Prescription Drug Program

Key Words

SE0501, Prescription, Drug, Program, Providers, MMA

Provider Types Affected

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

Key Points

- On January 1, 2006, a very important new benefit, the Medicare Prescription Drug Plans authorized under the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA), will be available to Medicare patients.
- These new prescription drug plans will be of significant value to patients by providing assistance with prescription drug expenses.
- Providers can stay informed by visiting the newly established web page at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PrescriptionDrugCovGenIn/* on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website, and checking it often as new information is always being added.
- Providers should refer their Medicare patients to information resources – 1-800- MEDICARE and to *http://www.medicare.gov*.
- To stay connected, providers should:
  - Pay attention to correspondence from their Medicare carrier or fiscal intermediary or their national professional associations; sign up for their listservs and read their newsletters;
  - Register to receive listserv email messages to alert them when new MLN Matters articles have been released on the new drug benefit (and other Medicare information). These articles can be found at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles* on the CMS website; and
  - Participate in CMS Open Door Forums to hear from and ask questions of CMS leadership on topics of interest to their particular provider type. Information regarding these Open Door Forums may be found at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoorforums* on the CMS website.

Important Links

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0501.pdf