



Related MLN Matters Article #: SE0544

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Message to Nursing Home Administrators on Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage-The Sixth in the Series of MLN Matters Articles on the New Prescription Drug Coverage

Key Words

SNF, Prescription, Drug, Coverage, MDS, Enrollees, Nursing

Provider Types Affected

Skilled nursing facilities (SNFs)

Key Points

- SE0544 includes important information for nursing home staff about the impact of the new prescription drug coverage for people who receive both Medicare and Medicaid.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the following information via the Minimum Data Set (MDS) submission system's Welcome Page on July 6, 2005, for nursing home staff:
 - On January 1, 2006, new prescription drug coverage will be available to SNFs' Medicare residents. It will cover brand name and generic drugs.
 - Starting January 1, 2006, state Medicaid programs will no longer provide drug coverage for people also covered by Medicare.
 - All Medicaid beneficiaries who are eligible to receive benefits through both Medicare and Medicaid **must** enroll in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan to get continuous coverage of their prescription drug costs.
 - If Medicaid beneficiaries who are eligible to receive benefits through both Medicare and Medicaid do not enroll in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan by December 31, 2005, Medicare will enroll them in a plan automatically to make sure they do not miss a day of coverage.
 - Medicaid beneficiaries who live in a nursing home will pay nothing out of their pocket for Medicare prescription drug coverage.
 - If SNFs' Medicare patients ask them questions about the new coverage, the SNF can refer them to 1-800-MEDICARE and to <http://www.medicare.gov> for additional information and assistance.

Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0544.pdf>

More information on provider education and outreach regarding Medicare prescription drug coverage can be found at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/23_DrugCoverage.asp#TopOfPage on the CMS website.

Detailed drug coverage information for CMS partners and advocates for people with Medicare can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Partnerships/PDI/list.asp#TopOfPage> on the CMS website.

Additional information regarding prescription drug plans can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PrescriptionDrugCovGenIn/> on the CMS website.