



Related MLN Matters Article #: SE0575

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Important Message to Nursing Home Administrators About Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage – The Tenth in the MLN Matters Series

Key Words

SE0575, SNF, Administrators, Prescription, Drug, Resident, Coverage, Part D, Nursing, Home

Provider Types Affected

Skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and nursing homes with Medicare residents

Key Points

- Special Edition article SE0575 contains information on Medicare prescription drug coverage as it applies to nursing home residents.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will continue to use MLN Matters articles, where appropriate, to supplement the Minimum Data Set (MDS) channel to communicate important information and recommended action steps.
- The goal is to ensure that the long term care population has a seamless transition to Medicare prescription drug coverage beginning January 2006.
- Key points about the new Medicare prescription drug coverage include the following:
 - On January 1, 2006, new prescription drug coverage, also known as Part D, will be available to all Medicare residents. It will cover brand name and generic drugs.
 - Everyone with Medicare is eligible to join a Medicare drug plan in their area.
 - Residents can first enroll in a Medicare drug plan from November 15, 2005 – May 15, 2006.
 - This new drug coverage requires all persons with Medicare to make a decision this fall.
 - Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) and nursing homes with Medicare residents should encourage them to learn more about this new coverage, because it may save them money on prescription drugs.
 - There is extra help for people with limited income and resources.

Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0575.pdf>

<http://www.medicare.gov>

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/>

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareContractingReform/>