

## Provider Messages regarding Part D Prescriber Requirement (4/1/15)

### Prescribers

December 4, 2014 - Part D Prescriber Mailing list

#### **New Requirements for Prescribers of Medicare Part D Drugs**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized [CMS-4159-F](#), “Medicare Program; Contract Year 2015 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage and the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Programs” on May 23, 2014. This rule requires physicians and, when applicable, other eligible professionals who write prescriptions for Part D drugs to:

- be enrolled in Medicare in an approved status, or
- have a valid opt-out affidavit on file for their prescriptions to be covered under Part D.

The final regulation stated that the effective date for this requirement would be June 1, 2015. However, CMS is announcing that it will delay enforcement until December 1, 2015 of the requirements in 42 CFR § 423.120(c)(6).

Physicians or eligible professionals who write prescriptions for Part D drugs but are not currently enrolled in Medicare in an approved status or do not have a valid opt-out affidavit on file, must submit a Medicare enrollment application or opt-out affidavit by **June 1, 2015**, or earlier, to ensure sufficient processing times and avoid patients’ prescription drug claims from being denied by their Part D plans beginning December 1, 2015.

For more information on the Part D enrollment requirements, and how to enroll via the web, refer to [MLN Matters® Article SE1434](#), “Provider Enrollment Requirements for Writing Prescriptions for Medicare Part D Drugs.” Questions may be directed to [providerenrollment@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:providerenrollment@cms.hhs.gov).

Pharmacies

February 19, 2015 - *MLN Connects Provider eNews*.

## **Update for Pharmacists Prescribing Part D Drugs**

CMS values the role that pharmacists play in our health care system today. CMS is aware that in many states, pharmacists are allowed to write or modify prescriptions in certain circumstances. A CMS [final rule](#) published May 23, 2014, included a requirement that Medicare Part D plan sponsors and their Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) deny coverage for prescriptions written by prescribers who:

- Are not enrolled in Medicare in an approved status or
- Do not have a valid opt-out affidavit on file

However, the Medicare statute does not include pharmacists among the types of eligible professionals who can enroll in Medicare or opt out. CMS is considering various approaches for addressing pharmacists' concerns with this enrollment requirement. Consistent with the Medicare statute and CMS requirements, pharmacists should not attempt to enroll in or opt out of Medicare. CMS will continue to update the pharmacist community on this issue.