



Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services National Medicare Drop-in Article

Medicare Offers New Prescription Drug Coverage

By The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

It's time for everyone with Medicare, as well as their families and friends, to start thinking about Medicare's new prescription drug coverage. The coverage can provide savings on brand-name and generic drug costs for every person with Medicare starting January 1, 2006. Information about specific Medicare prescription drug plans will be available in October and enrollment begins November 15, 2005.

For people with limited income and resources, there is extra help paying for drug costs. This means they will have almost no drug expenses. Social Security mailed applications for extra help to households with limited income. To request an application, call 1-800-772-1213, or apply at www.socialsecurity.gov on the web.

For more information on the new Medicare prescription drug coverage, visit www.medicare.gov on the web, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), or get free counseling from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program.

Rules are different in Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories.

This information is prepared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.