



**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services National Medicare Multi-Media
& Education Campaign Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage
Drop-In Bulletin (150 words)**

With New Prescription Drug Coverage, Medicare Covers More Than Ever!

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reminds you that starting January 1, 2006, everyone with Medicare is eligible to join a Medicare drug plan.

A typical person with Medicare and no drug coverage could see total drug costs drop by about 50%. Even if you do not take a lot of prescription drugs now, you should still consider joining to avoid high prescription drug bills in the future. Costs and coverage may differ among Medicare drug plans, but they will all meet Medicare's strict requirements.

To get covered, join a Medicare drug plan between November 15, 2005 and May 15, 2006. If you join after May 15, 2006, you may pay a late enrollment penalty. Extra help is available for people with limited income and resources who qualify.

For more information about the new Medicare prescription drug coverage, visit www.medicare.gov on the web, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or look at the "Medicare & You 2006" handbook. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.