

U.S. House and Senate Notification
Monday, May 24, 2010

To: Congressional Health Staff

From: Amy Hall
Director, Office of Legislation
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Re: Medicare and the New Health Law – What it Means for You

Starting tomorrow and throughout this week, Medicare beneficiaries across the country should begin receiving copies of a brochure “Medicare and the New Health Law – What it Means for You” in their mailboxes. The mailing from CMS outlines key provisions of the Affordable Care Act for people with Medicare as well as members of their families. The mailing is being sent in both English and Spanish.

Because Medicare is a trusted resource for beneficiaries and their family members, the mailing encourages them to log on to www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE to get their questions about Medicare or the Affordable Care Act answered and reminds them to be on the alert for possible scams.

The first benefit that many people with Medicare will receive as a result of the passage of the new law is a one-time check for \$250, if they enter the Part D donut hole and are not eligible for Medicare Extra Help. Beginning next year, the Affordable Care Act ensures that Medicare beneficiaries will get free preventive care services like colorectal cancer screening and mammograms, in addition to a free annual wellness visit. The law also includes new tools to help fight fraud by helping Medicare crack down on criminals who are seeking to scam seniors and steal taxpayer dollars.

The brochures can also be found at: <http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11467.pdf> (English) and http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11467_S.pdf (Spanish).

Please share this information with your constituents, community organizations, and other partners. Hard copies of the brochure can be obtained in the Office of the Speaker (H-232), Office of the Republican Leader (H-204), Senate Majority Leader’s Office (Hart 522), and Senate Minority Leader’s Office (S-230).

Please contact the CMS Office of Legislation if you have any questions.