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Clarification on Part D and Fee-For-Service (FFS) Providers, New Web-based Educational Products, and the Latest Information on Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage – The Seventh in the Medlearn Matters Series

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers, suppliers, and their staff who provide service to people with Medicare

Important Points to Remember

- ✓ On January 1, 2006, new prescription drug coverage will be available to your Medicare patients.
- ✓ It will cover brand name and generic drugs.
- ✓ This new drug coverage requires all people with Medicare to make a decision this fall. As a trusted source, your patients may turn to you for information about this new coverage. Therefore, we're looking to you and your staff to take advantage of this "teachable moment" and help your Medicare patients.
- ✓ You should encourage your Medicare patients to learn more about this new coverage because it may save them money on prescription drugs. There is extra help available for people with limited income and resources.
- ✓ If your Medicare patients ask you questions about the new coverage, you can refer them to 1-800-MEDICARE and to <http://www.medicare.gov> for information and assistance.

Clarifying Information for Fee-For-Service (FFS) Medicare Providers

Billing for Drugs Covered Under Part D

There has been some confusion among FFS providers regarding their ability to bill drugs covered under Part D, commonly referred to as "Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage." In short, being an enrolled provider in the FFS program does not impart Part D-related billing privileges. Medicare Part B covers a limited number of prescription drugs and biologicals. Currently, covered Medicare drugs generally fall into three categories:

- Drugs furnished incident to a physician's service;
- Drugs furnished through a Medicare Part B covered item of durable medical equipment (DME); and
- Drugs specifically covered by statute (for example, oral immunosuppressive drugs).

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These drugs continue to be covered and paid for under the FFS Medicare program (i.e., Part B) and FFS providers (e.g., physicians, hospitals, and pharmacies) will continue to bill their Carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries, and Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carriers (DMERCs) for these drugs. This coverage under Part B continues after the January 1, 2006 effective date for Part D. (For a more detailed discussion of Medicare Part B covered drugs, see <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/drugs/> on the CMS web site.)

How Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Will be Administered

Medicare prescription drug coverage under Part D will be administered through Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plans (MA-PDs) and Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs). For a person with Medicare who joins an MA or a PDP, their provider must have a contractual relationship with that MA-PD or PDP to bill and receive payment from the MA-PDP or PDP for that individual's covered prescription drugs. This is true regardless of whether or not the provider is enrolled in the FFS Medicare program and billing FFS Medicare for Medicare Part B covered drugs.

Example: Suppose a pharmacy is currently receiving payment under Medicare Part B for an individual's Medicare Part B covered drug, albuterol, delivered through a *nebulizer*, which is considered to be DME. The pharmacy would, as they do today, bill the local DMERC for this drug. The same individual has joined a PDP and has coverage of albuterol *delivered through a metered dose inhaler* (which is not considered DME under Part B). The pharmacy can only bill the MA-PD or PDP for covered albuterol delivered through a metered dose inhaler if the pharmacy has a contractual relationship with that MA-PD or PDP.

New Information on the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Information for Providers Web Page

The following new information can be found on the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Information for Providers web page at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/drugcoverage.asp> on the CMS web site.

Toolkit for Health Professionals: Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released the Toolkit for Health Care Professionals: Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage, available as an Adobe PDF file (860Kb) at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/provtoolkit.pdf> on the CMS web site. This toolkit includes downloadable educational materials specifically for physicians and other health care professionals and their staff to learn the basics about Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage. It also includes materials that can be distributed to Medicare patients. The kit contains reproducible artwork, a letter from the CMS Administrator, a fact sheet (English and Spanish), a brochure, an article, and a list of other resources. You may add your logo and business information to these materials and copy freely.

Limited Income? SSA Can Help - Posters to Display in Health Care Settings

Flat wall posters directing people with Medicare who have limited income to a number they can call to find out if they are eligible for help with prescription drug costs are available now. Posters are suitable for display in a physician's, provider's or supplier's office, a pharmacy, or other health care setting where

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people with Medicare will see this information. Easel posters are no longer available. To order, visit the Medlearn Product Ordering Page at

http://cms.meridianksi.com/kc/main/kc_frame.asp?kc_ident=kc0001&loc=5 on the CMS web site.

New Fact Sheets Available On the Medicare Web Site

The following Fact Sheets are now available at <http://www.medicare.gov>. These can help your patients better understand Medicare's new prescription drug coverage:

Quick Facts about Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs for People Who Have Coverage from an Employer or Union (Publication Number 11107)

Basic information about Medicare's new prescription drug coverage for people who have prescription coverage from an employer or union. (2 pages)

<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11107.pdf>

Quick Facts about Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs for People with a Medicare-approved Drug Discount Card (Publication Number 11104)

Basic information about Medicare's new prescription drug coverage for a person with a Medicare-approved drug discount card. (2 pages)

<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11104.pdf>

New Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage—Who Can Help Me Apply and Enroll? (Publication Number 11125)

Explains who can help people with Medicare apply for extra help in paying for prescription drug costs and join a Medicare prescription drug plan. (2 pages)

<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11125.pdf>

Quick Facts about Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs for People in a Medicare Health Plan with Drug Coverage (Publication Number 11135)

Basic information about Medicare's new prescription drug coverage for people with a Medicare health plan with prescription drug coverage. (2 pages)

<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11135.pdf>

New Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage: A Message for People Who Care for Someone with Medicare (Publication Number 11126)

Explains Medicare's new prescription drug coverage to those who make health care decisions for people with Medicare. (4 pages)

<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11126.pdf>

Quick Facts about Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs for Alaskans with Limited Income and Resources (Publication Number 11105_AK)

Basic information about Medicare's new prescription drug coverage for a person with limited income and resources in Alaska. (2 pages)

http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11105_AK.pdf

Quick Facts about Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs for Hawaiians with Limited Income and Resources (Publication Number 11105_HI)

Basic information about Medicare's new prescription drug coverage for a person with limited income and resources in Hawaii. (2 pages)

http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11105_HI.pdf

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Quick Facts About Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage and Protecting Your Personal Information (Publication Number 11147)

Information about how people with Medicare can protect their personal information when dealing with plans and others about Medicare prescription drug coverage. (2 pages)

<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11147.pdf>

New Publications Available on the CMS Web Site

The following new publications are available by going to

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarereform/factsheets.asp> on the CMS web site and clicking on the appropriate links described below:

Basic Questions and Answers About Prescription Drug Coverage

We encourage you to use these basic questions and answers to respond to inquiries from people with Medicare: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/news/mma/qsandas.pdf>

What Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Means to You: A Guide to Getting Started

A new brochure available to explain the basics of prescription drug coverage:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarereform/91007_MedicareBrochure.pdf

Additional Information

More information on provider education and outreach regarding drug coverage can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/drugcoverage.asp> on the CMS website.

Detailed drug coverage information for CMS partners and advocates for people with Medicare can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/news/mma/default.asp> on the CMS website.

You can also find additional information regarding prescription drug plans at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pdps> on the CMS website.

Further information on CMS implementation of the Medicare Modernization Act MMA can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarereform/> on the CMS website.

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