

***“The Medicare Prescription Drug,
Improvement and Modernization
Act of 2003”***

Immediate Savings for Seniors

1-800-MEDICARE

www.medicare.gov

New Medicare Benefits

- Medicare-approved drug discount cards;
- Full prescription drug benefit available to all seniors in 2006;
- Preventive care including:
 - Free initial physical exam
 - Disease management programs
 - Cardiovascular screenings
 - Diabetes screenings

Discount Drug Card

- Interim program until new benefit begins in Jan 2006;
 - June 1, 2004 – December 31, 2005
- Offers immediate savings on drugs;
 - On-line comparison tool available April 29, 2004
 - Enrollment begins May 3, 2004
 - Cards available June 2004
- Estimated discounts between 10-25% of retail drug prices;
- Estimated \$30 per year enrollment fee – some cards will be free;

Drug Discount Card

- Seniors can choose from many drug card options depending on needs;
- Low-income seniors will receive \$600 annual credit toward drug costs.
 - Single seniors with incomes \$12,569;
 - Married couples with incomes below \$16,862;
 - Enrollment fee waived for low-income seniors.

Selecting a Discount Card

- **www.medicare.gov**
 - Click on “Prescription Drug and Other Assistance Programs”
- **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**
 - Trained operators will assist seniors and mail printout of available discount card options.

Discount Card Comparison

- Information Required for Comparison Tool:
 - Zip code;
 - Annual income;
 - Marital status;
 - Current prescriptions used.
- Compare results to select discount card with best discounts on your current prescriptions.

Enrolling in a Discount Card

- Select a discount card;
- Complete enrollment form – or- enroll via phone;
- Low-income seniors will need to complete and sign an enrollment form to apply for the \$600 credit;
- Discount cards will be mailed in late May/early June.

Other Card Programs

- Medicare-approved discount cards will coordinate with other, existing card programs
 - Many state programs will continue to offer assistance.
- Have your pharmacist determine which card offers the best discount for each prescription drug purchase.

Prescription Drug Coverage

- Coverage begins in 2006;
- Voluntary;
- Guaranteed;
- Separate program from drug discount cards;
- Estimated \$35 monthly premium, \$250 annual deductible;
- Out-of-pocket spending limit guarantees Medicare pays 95% of drug costs over \$3,600 a year.

Prescription Drug Coverage

- Estimated savings up to 50% off what seniors without coverage currently pay.
- Generic drugs will be available more quickly;
- Many seniors will have lower co-pays for generic drugs;
- No premiums or deductibles and reduced or no co-payments for lowest income seniors.

For More Information

www.medicare.gov

1-800-MEDICARE

(1-800-633-4227)