



Ask Your Pharmacist

Choosing A Medicare Prescription Drug Plan

(NAPSA)—The enrollment period for choosing a new, or changing from an existing, Medicare Part D prescription drug plan for 2007 is from November 15, 2006 through December 31, 2006. The Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit offers coverage for brand name and generic drugs to anyone eligible for Medicare and many seniors have questions about how to take advantage of the benefit. Mona Scheraga, RPh, CVS/pharmacy, answers readers' questions about eligibility and choosing the right plan.

Am I eligible for Medicare?

You are eligible for Medicare if you are a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident for five continuous years AND one of the following applies to you:

- You are 65 years or older and eligible for Social Security.
- You are under 65, permanently disabled and have received SSI disability payments for at least two years.
- You receive continuing dialysis for permanent kidney failure or need a kidney transplant.
- You have amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.
- You currently have Medicare Part A or Part B.

What if I previously enrolled in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan?

If you are satisfied with your current coverage, it is not necessary to re-enroll. However, it's still a good idea to review your plan options, because the list of covered medications and plan prices have changed.

How do I choose a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan that is right for me?

To get help in finding the right plan, seniors and caregivers can



talk to their pharmacist. Many pharmacists are specially trained to help explain the Medicare Part D drug benefit and can help guide seniors through the process.

When can I enroll in a Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan?

Enroll during the open enrollment period (November 15, 2006 through December 31, 2006) for coverage starting January 1, 2007. If you turn 65 after the December 31st deadline, you may enroll in Medicare as early as three months before your birthday and up to three months after, regardless of when your birthday falls.

Where can I get more information if I need it?

- Your pharmacy is a great resource. Go to www.cvs.com to find a CVS/pharmacy nearby.
- Visit the Medicare Web site at www.medicare.gov or call (800) 633-4227 to find out if you are eligible for Medicare or to compare plans.
- Visit the Social Security Web site at www.ssa.gov or call (800) 772-1213 for information about "Extra Help" to pay for costs associated with the plan.