

Facts about Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

If you have Medicare, you can get help paying for drugs soon. This new benefit is called **Medicare prescription drug coverage**. Coverage starts January 2006.

What if I have a Medicare approved drug discount card?

Medicare's new drug plan replaces the Medicare approved drug discount card. Your drug card ends May 15, 2006, or as soon as you join a Medicare drug plan.

What if I have Medicare AND drug coverage through Medicaid?

If you have Medicare and Medicaid, your Medicaid drug coverage will end December 31, 2005. Your Medicare drug plan will start January 1, 2006.

You may qualify for help with premiums, deductibles and co-pays:

Your Yearly Income and Current Benefits	Monthly Premium	Yearly Deductible	What You Pay of Covered Drug Costs Per Year
Full Medicaid benefits and less than \$9,570 (single); \$12,830 (couple)*	\$0	\$0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1 for generic and \$3 for brand-name drugs \$0 after covered drug costs reach \$5,100**
Income less than \$12,920 (single) or \$17,320 (couple) AND resources less than \$7,500 (single); \$12,000 (couple)*	\$0	\$0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2 for generic and \$5 for brand-name drugs \$0 after covered drug costs reach \$5,100**
Income less than \$14,355 (single) or \$19,245 (couple) AND resources less than \$11,500 (single) or \$23,000(couple)*	Sliding scale up to an average of \$32.20	\$50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$50 deductible 15% of covered drug costs to \$5,100** \$2 for generics and \$5 for brand-name drugs after that
All others with higher income and/or more resources*	Average of \$32.20	\$250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$250 deductible 25% of the next \$2,000 of covered drug costs 100% of the next \$2,850 of covered drug costs the larger of \$2 for generics, \$5 for brand-name drugs or 5% of covered drug costs--over \$5,100**



** Allowed income is higher if family is larger, you're using work incentive programs, living in AK or HI, or if spouse works. Resources include bank accounts, investments, face value of life insurance, and \$1,500 per person for burial expenses. Your home or car or personal possessions do not count. ** Your true out-of-pocket cost for covered drugs is \$3,600.

Will Medicare's drug plan cover all my drugs?

You will have at least 2 plan choices. Each plan may cover different drugs. (formulary). Some plans may cover more for a higher premium. Choose the plan that covers most of the drugs you take or would if you could afford to. Plan ahead for drugs you may need as your health or treatments change.

What if I have drug coverage now?

Your plan will tell you if it is on average as good as Medicare's drug coverage. If so, you could join to add to your current coverage. If not, join by the deadline to avoid paying a penalty if you join later.

What if my state has a drug assistance program?

State programs to help seniors, the disabled, and people with kidney disease may work with Medicare's drug coverage.

What if I have Medigap insurance with drug coverage?

After 2005, companies will not offer drug coverage with new Medigap plans. If your Medigap plan covers drugs, you can keep it.

Your plan will tell you how it compares to Medicare's drug coverage. Most do not have as good coverage. If not, you may keep your plan or change to a Medigap plan without drug coverage when you join a Medicare drug plan.

How do I join a Medicare drug plan?

If you have Medicare, you will get mailings about joining.

If you have Medicaid, SSI, or have state help to pay your Medicare premium, choose a plan that meets your needs by the deadline or Medicare will choose one for you

What if I have limited income?

Call Social Security at 800-772-1213 to apply for the low-income subsidy.

How do I change plans?

If you have Medicaid or state help paying your Medicare premium, you can change plans any time. Others can change plans once a year. Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

When can I join?

Join Nov.15, 2005 to May 15, 2006 or your first 6 months of Medicare to get the most help at the lowest cost.

Can I join a Medicare drug plan later if I don't want to join now?

You can, but you may pay a penalty if you join late.

Where can find answers for my questions?

- Your social worker
- *Medicare & You 2006* booklet
- Local Department on Aging
- Social Security – 800-772-1213
- www.medicare.gov or www.ssa.gov