

Committee on Ways and Means

Medicare Prescription Drug Discount Card

Drug Card Overview

- 39 cards will be available nationally, with 33 other cards available on a regional basis.
- Regional cards must be offered at least state-wide.
- Beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans will receive their cards through their plans.
- Enrollment fees range from \$0 to \$30.

Signing-Up

- Beneficiaries can begin signing up for the drug cards on May 3rd.
- To receive help in selecting a card, beneficiaries should call 1-800-MEDICARE or visit the Medicare website at <http://www.medicare.gov>.
- CMS now has nearly 3,000 customer service representatives available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to answer questions.
- Beneficiaries can also have their questions answered through their State Health Insurance Programs (SHIPs) and Health Insurance Counseling and Assistance Programs (HICAPs). Information on these resources is available at <http://www.medicare.gov/Contacts/Related/Ships.asp>
- To enroll in a particular card, beneficiaries will contact that card and receive an application. A list of national cards is on the back of this page.
- CMS has produced a standard enrollment form that will be accepted by all cards.

State Pharmacy Assistance Programs

- CMS has announced that State programs that enter an agreement with a single discount card may automatically enroll their pharmacy assistance beneficiaries into that drug discount card.
- Beneficiaries in State programs will have the opportunity to “opt out” of the auto-enrollment process.

Eligibility

- All Medicare beneficiaries are eligible for the discount card except those enrolled in Medicaid and entitled to Medicaid drug coverage.
- Individuals may enroll in only one Medicare-endorsed card at a time.
- In 2004, individuals may change their designated drug card once for 2005.

Transitional Low Income Assistance

- All beneficiaries with incomes less than \$12,569/single or \$16,862/married couple will be eligible for transitional assistance unless they have third party coverage.
- Up to \$600 per year will be provided to purchase prescription drugs.
- The annual enrollment fee for the card will be paid by Medicare.