

Member Alert

Medicare Part D Now in Effect

Starting January 1, Medicare Part D rolled out across the nation. This plan is designed to provide cost-effective prescription medications to all Medicare and Medicare/Medicaid dual eligible residents.

This new coverage, however, may cause confusion for long term care staff, residents, and pharmacists alike.

Washington Health Care Association staff

has worked to prepare its members for Medicare Part D implementation. Now there is an online resource that will assist to clarify Medicare Part D coverage. Among the online resources, you will find:

- Approved Washington drug plans
- Appeals process
- Frequently asked

questions and answers

- Drug plan enrollment procedures
- Drug plan coverage policies
- WHCA's Medicare Part D publication

To review these resources and more, go to www.whca.org and click on "Medicare Part D."



AHCA Medicare Part D Resources Available

In follow up to AHCA's *Medicare Part D Essentials For Long Term Care Facilities*, AHCA has prepared a guide, or more accurately a checklist of issues/items, that we hope WHCA members will find helpful as you prepare your residents, families, and staff for the significant changes required by Medicare Part D. You will find this new guide, [Medicare Part D Checklist for Long Term Care Facilities: Suggestions for Preparation](#), on AHCA's [Members Only](#) website at www.ahca.org.

CMS Hosts Weekly Conference Call on Part D

Beginning Tuesday, January 3rd and continuing every Tuesday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will host a provider Part D conference call. Today over 1,300 people participated in the conference call.

Providers are encouraged to participate in the call, and use the time to ask questions and describe problems.

The calls are scheduled weekly, on Tuesdays, from 11 AM—12 PM. To participate in the conference, call 1-800-619-2457. The password for the call is "RBDML".

All PDPs are offering a 30-day transition period when all prescribed medications will be covered regardless of the coverage formulary. During this time, if a resident's medication(s) are not listed on the PDP's formulary, the resident can do one of the following:

- Work with his/her physician to change the drug to one that is covered
- File for an appeal
- Change PDPs to a company that covers the drug in question