



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**  
**AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**  
*P.O. Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600*

## **Important Information about Changes in Your Prescription Drug Coverage:**

Starting January 1, 2006, your Medicaid prescription drug coverage will change if you are eligible for Medicare Part D. You will not be able to use your Medical ID card to pay for most of your prescription drugs after December 31, 2005. Medicare Part D will pay for most of your prescription drugs through the Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) that you are enrolled in.

### **How do I get enrolled in the Medicare Part D Program?**

You should have already received a yellow letter telling you that you have been automatically enrolled in the Medicare Part D program. This letter should also tell you the name of the prescription drug plan you have been enrolled in. If you have not been enrolled in a plan, any of the major pharmacies that are part of a network can enroll you into a national plan called "Wellpoint". You must bring proof of Medicare, Medicaid and photo identification to the pharmacy to sign up for Wellpoint.

If you join a plan or Medicare enrolls you in a plan and it does not work for you, you can change plans at any time. If you decide to change plans, the new plan will take effect the first day of the next month. If you are not able to enroll on your own, someone can help you enroll in a plan that meets your needs.

### **What do I have to pay for?**

You must pay co-pays for your prescriptions. Co-pays cost from \$1 to \$3 for each prescription. You may also have to pay a portion of your plan premium if you choose a plan that is not fully paid for by the State. Be sure to ask about the premium when you are comparing plans.

### **How will I pay co-pays if I'm also paying participation?**

If you pay part of your income for the cost of your care (participation), the amount you pay in co-pays and premiums is considered a medical expense and may be used to reduce the amount you pay for the cost of your care. If you get food assistance, co-pays and other medical expenses that exceed \$35.00 per month, may be used to give you more food benefits.

- Report the amount you pay for co-pays and premiums to your local Home and Community Services Financial Worker. If you don't know who your financial worker is, you can call the local Home and Community Services Office or call 1-800-422-3263 and we can direct you to the office in your area.
- Provide receipts for the amount you report to your Home and Community Services Financial Worker.

**How will I get my medications if I live in a nursing home?**

If you live in a nursing home, you may want to find out which drug plans work with the nursing home where you live. If you move into a nursing home, you can switch plans at that time if you choose to. After you have lived in a nursing home for a full calendar month, prescription co-pays are waived.

**What if I have drug coverage from another type of insurance?**

If you have prescription coverage from another insurance carrier such as an employer, union or retirement plan, talk to your insurance carrier. If your insurance plan is not as good as Medicare prescription drug coverage, **find out about your options from your insurance carrier.** You may not be able to drop your current prescription drug coverage to join a Medicare drug plan without also dropping your current health (doctor and hospital) coverage. If you drop your current insurance plan, you may not be able to get it back.

You may not need to join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan if your insurance plan provides benefits equal to or better than the Medicare Plan. In order to keep your current insurance plan, you may have to decline or disenroll in the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan.

**If you have questions about Medicare prescription drug coverage, or want help joining a Medicare drug plan you can contact:**

- [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the web;
- 1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048;
- SHIBA (1-800-562-6900) or [www.insurance.wa.gov](http://www.insurance.wa.gov) (click on SHIBA); or
- Your local Senior Information and Assistance agency, call 1-800-677-1116 to find your local agency or look in the Yellow Pages under Sr. Citizen Services.

**Here are some links to resources assisting people looking to learn more about the new Medicare drug coverage:**

- [www.maprx.info](http://www.maprx.info), Medicare Access for Patients RX, a coalition that helps beneficiaries with special needs;
- [www.kff.org/medicare](http://www.kff.org/medicare), The Kaiser Family Foundation, a health care policy group that offers information;
- [www.medicarerights.org](http://www.medicarerights.org), The Medicare Rights Center has a hot line for people who have questions about the new drug benefit and can help with complaints that come up after you join;
- [www.accesstobenefits.org](http://www.accesstobenefits.org), information on drug coverage;
- [www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov), a worksheet developed by CMS to help select a plan can be found on this web site.