



## CSR Inquiry Assistance

Related MLN Matters Article #: SE0575

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### *Important Message to Nursing Home Administrators About Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage – The Tenth in the MLN Matters Series*

#### Key Words

SE0575, SNF, Administrators, Prescription, Drug, Resident, Coverage, Part D, Nursing, Home

#### Provider Types Affected

Skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and nursing homes with Medicare residents

#### Key Points

- Special Edition article SE0575 contains information on Medicare prescription drug coverage as it applies to nursing home residents.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will continue to use MLN Matters articles, where appropriate, to supplement the Minimum Data Set (MDS) channel to communicate important information and recommended action steps.
- The goal is to ensure that the long term care population has a seamless transition to Medicare prescription drug coverage beginning January 2006.
- Key points about the new Medicare prescription drug coverage include the following:
  - On January 1, 2006, new prescription drug coverage, also known as Part D, will be available to all Medicare residents. It will cover brand name and generic drugs.
  - Everyone with Medicare is eligible to join a Medicare drug plan in their area.
  - Residents can first enroll in a Medicare drug plan from November 15, 2005 – May 15, 2006.
  - This new drug coverage requires all persons with Medicare to make a decision this fall.
  - Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) and nursing homes with Medicare residents should encourage them to learn more about this new coverage, because it may save them money on prescription drugs.
  - There is extra help for people with limited income and resources.

### Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0575.pdf>

<http://www.medicare.gov>

<http://new.cms.hhs.gov/CreditableCoverage/Downloads/EnrollmentQnA102005withcoversheet.pdf>

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/>

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarerereform/pdbma/>