

Medicare Rx Update: December 12, 2006

Many Low-Income Patients Still Need Assistance...

As we have outlined in previous Medicare Rx Updates, beneficiaries who are no longer automatically eligible to receive the LIS in 2007 must re-apply through the Social Security Administration. Those who do not re-apply for 2007 could experience sticker shock at the pharmacy counter in January when they have to pay higher co-payments, premiums and deductibles. In order to avoid any interruptions to drug therapy in January, we strongly recommend that pharmacists continue to remind people who currently receive the LIS that if they have received notification from CMS about a status change, they must apply or they will have higher co-payment and premium liabilities in 2007. We encourage Pharmacists to continue helping beneficiaries submit LIS applications or to refer them to the Social Security Administration by calling 1-800-772-1213 or visiting <http://www.ssa.gov/medicareoutreach2/index.htm>. Medicare Rx Updates: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Pharmacy/RX/list.asp#TopOfPage>

Pharmacy Coordination of Benefits training available on-line...

As promised during last week's training, we have posted a link entitled "Handling Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan Complaints" on the www.cms.hhs.gov/pharmacy website. Additionally, CMS has posted an outreach tool-kit to assist partners and family members in educating people with Medicare with their Part D decisions during open-enrollment. You can view the Open Enrollment Toolkit and print materials especially for partners. <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Partnerships/Toolkits/itemdetail.asp?filterType=none&filterByDID=-99&sortByDID=1&sortOrder=ascending&itemID=CMS1189153&intNumPerPage=10>

** If the above link does not work, please copy and paste it into your browser.*

Legislation Changes Part D Vaccine Administration policy...

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released a Special Edition MLN Matters article (SE0678), which addressed CMS's approach for providers to obtain payment for Part D vaccines under the Medicare Drug Benefit. Subsequent to that release, legislation was passed that may impact the information provided in the article. Therefore, we have retracted SE0678 and we will keep you apprised when further guidance becomes available.

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