

## **Beneficiary Fact Sheet: Using Your Medicare Drug Coverage In 2007**

If you've just joined a Medicare drug plan for the first time, or you switched to a new Medicare drug plan during the open enrollment period, there are some things you can do to make sure your first visit to the pharmacy in 2007 goes smoothly.

The first time you use your new Medicare drug plan, you should come to the pharmacy prepared with as much information as possible, especially if you need to use your new coverage before you receive a plan ID card. Here's what you should bring to the pharmacy:

- Your Medicare and/or Medicaid card
- A photo ID
- Your plan ID card, if you have one
- If you don't have a plan ID card, you can bring an acknowledgement or confirmation letter from the plan if you have one, or an enrollment confirmation number from the plan. (**Note:** Only confirmation numbers from the plan will work, not those from Medicare's Online Enrollment Center at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).)

If you haven't received a plan ID card or any plan enrollment materials, you should let the pharmacist know the name of the Medicare drug plan you joined, so that the pharmacist can confirm your plan enrollment and get the information necessary to bill your plan. Since the pharmacist may have to search for your plan information, it could take extra time to fill your prescription.

### **If You Have Medicare and Medicaid or Qualify for Extra Help**

If you have both Medicare and Medicaid or have been approved for extra help with your drug plan costs, you should bring proof of enrollment in both programs to the pharmacy, along with a copy of the yellow automatic enrollment letter from Medicare, an approval letter from the Social Security Administration, or other proof that you qualify for extra help.

#### **Proof of Medicare may include**

- Medicare card
- Copy of a Medicare Summary Notice

**Proof of Medicaid may include**

- Medicaid card
- A recent history of Medicaid billing in your pharmacy's patient profile
- Copy of a current Medicaid award letter

The pharmacist will use this information to confirm your Medicare drug plan enrollment and/or Medicaid status, to make sure you get the prescriptions you need.

**What If the Pharmacist Can't Confirm My Drug Plan?**

In some rare cases, the pharmacist may not be able to confirm your plan enrollment or Medicaid eligibility status. As a last resort, you can pay out-of-pocket for the prescription, save the receipts, and work with your Medicare drug plan to be reimbursed.