

Eligibility – The Drug Card and Transitional Assistance



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*Pre-Application Conference for the Medicare Prescription Drug Discount Card
and Transitional Assistance Program – December 18 & 19, 2003*

Eligibility Criteria

- The drug card
- Transitional Assistance (TA)

- Who's eligible
- Who's not



You know what the drug card is.

What's "Transitional Assistance?"

Transitional Assistance

- Financial Help from the Federal Government
- For Low-Income Beneficiaries
- To help them afford their drugs
 - Up to \$600 per year towards the purchase of drugs
 - Payment of the discount card enrollment fee

The Card and “TA”

- Beneficiaries may elect to
 - Purchase a card from drug card sponsors, and additionally
 - Apply for Transitional Assistance

Who's eligible to purchase a card?

- Medicare Beneficiaries who are
 - Entitled to or Enrolled in Part A, or
 - Enrolled in Part B, and
 - Not already enrolled with a sponsor

Who may NOT purchase a card?

- Anyone who is enrolled in a State Medicaid Program and eligible to receive outpatient Medicaid Drug Benefits
 - Under “regular” Medicaid
 - Under Medicaid 1115 waivers

Who's eligible for TA?

- Must meet basic drug card eligibility
 - Has Medicare A or B
 - Not enrolled in Medicaid with an outpatient drug benefit

- And

Who's eligible for TA?

- Income no more than 135% of the Official Poverty Level, currently
 - \$12,123 for single individuals
 - \$16,362 for married individuals
- Resources (assets) don't count

Who's NOT eligible for TA?

- Anyone with existing outpatient drug coverage from
 - Employer group health plans, or
 - Tricare

Redeterminations? Reconsiderations?

- Once you're "in," you're in!
- No eligibility "redeterminations" or "look back"
- "Reconsiderations" of negative eligibility determinations – yes!

Try, Try Again

- If beneficiary was denied TA
- Later believes his situation has changed
 - income is lower now
 - lost outpatient drug coverage from Medicaid or group health
- Apply again! The bene might qualify!

Eligibility Review

- Drug Card only
 - Has Medicare A or B
 - Does not have Medicaid Outpatient Drug Benefit
- Transitional Assistance (TA)
 - Meets above requirements – AND --
 - Meets Income Test (not more than 135% of poverty)
 - No access to outpatient drugs through group health plans or Tricare

Got Questions?

- Please submit questions in writing at the stations around the conference provided for that purpose.

- Thanks!

Next up . . .

The enrollment process