

MEDICARE MATTERS

Special Edition

A Publication by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Fall 2004

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MMA—MEDICARE REPLACEMENT DRUG DEMONSTRATION



Mandated under section 641 of the **Medicare Modernization Act**, the **Medicare Replacement Drug Demonstration** allows up to 50,000 people with Medicare, who have certain life-threatening diseases to obtain specified drugs they can take themselves at home for their condition. It is a time-limited Medicare demonstration that will cover certain drugs and biologicals that are prescribed as replacements for existing covered Medicare drugs and biologicals before Medicare's prescription drug program begins in 2006.

Enrollment in the demonstration is limited and applications must be received by September 30, 2004 to receive full consideration. If more persons submit applications by September 30th than can be accepted, participants will be chosen on a random basis among all completed applications received. Applicants will be notified in writing of their status regarding participation in the demonstration. If fewer applications are received, then all eligible beneficiaries who have submitted applications by September 30th will be enrolled. To the extent that enrollment slots remain unfilled, additional applications will be considered on a rolling basis. An application is not considered complete without a physician certification form.

For a beneficiary to be eligible for this demonstration, he or she must meet the following criteria:

- Beneficiary must have Medicare Part A and Part B;
- Medicare must be the beneficiary's primary health insurance;
- Beneficiary must reside in one of the 50 states or the District of Columbia;
- Beneficiary must have a signed certification form from his/her doctor stating that he/she has prescribed or intends to prescribe for the beneficiary one of the covered medications for the specified condition;
- Beneficiary must not have any other insurance that has comprehensive drug coverage that would cover this medication.

Refer to the table on Page 2 which shows the drugs and conditions that will be covered under the demonstration.



DRUGS COVERED UNDER THE MEDICARE REPLACEMENT DRUG DEMONSTRATION



Demonstration Covered Indication	Drug/Biological-Compound Name (Brand Name)
Rheumatoid Arthritis	Adalimumab (Humira) Anakinra (Kineret) Etanercept (Enbrel)
Multiple Sclerosis	Glatiramer acetate (Copaxone) Interferon beta-1a (Rebif, Avonex) Interferon beta-1b (Betaseron)
Osteoporosis (patient must be homebound)	Calcitonin-nasal (Miacalcin-nasal)
Pulmonary Hypertension	Bosentan (Tracleer)
Secondary Hyperparathyroidism	Doxercalciferol (Hectoral)
Paget's Disease	Alendronate (Fosamax) Risedronate (Actonel)
Hepatitis C	Pegylated interferon alfa-2a (Pegasys) Pegylated interferon alfa-2b (PEG-Intron)
CMV Retinitis	Valcyte (Valganciclovir)
Acromegaly	Pegvisomant (Somavert)
Anti-Cancer	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutaneous T-cell Lymphoma • Non-small cell lung cancer • Epithelia ovarian cancer • Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia • GI Stromal Tumor • Multiple Myeloma • Breast Cancer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stage 2-4 only 	Bexarotene (Targretin) Gefitinib (Iressa) Altretamine (Hexalen) Imatinib Mesylate (Gleevec) Imatinib Mesylate (Gleevec) Thalidomide (Thalomid) Hormonal Therapy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anastrozole (Arimidex) • Exemestane (Aromasin) • Letrozole (Femara) • Tamoxifen (Noladex) • Toremifene (Fareston)
Prophylactic agent to reduce ifosfamide-induced hemorrhagic cystitis	Mesna (Mesnex)

For more information on this demonstration or to obtain an application package, please visit www.medicare.gov or call **1-866-563-5386** (TTY:1-866-563-5387) between 8:00 am and 7:30 pm EST Monday–Friday.

TAKE A LOVED ONE TO THE DOCTOR DAY



September 21, 2004, marks the third annual **Take A Loved One to the Doctor Day**—a key element of the **Closing the Health Gap** campaign. Closing the Gap was launched in November 2001 designed to help make good health an important issue among racial and ethnic minority populations, who are affected by serious diseases and health conditions at far greater rates than other Americans.

The focus of **Take A Loved One to the Doctor Day** is to encourage individuals to take charge of their health by visiting a health professional, making an appointment for a visit, attending a health event in the community, or helping a friend, neighbor or family member do the same. It is designed to encourage minority communities to become more involved in their health care and health choices by working with local organizations. Last year, 500 national and local organizations, including fraternal, social, religious, health and community-based organizations, and local health departments, signed on as partners by organizing screenings, health fairs and other events to promote health and wellness.

TAKE A LOVED ONE TO THE DOCTOR DAY September 21, 2004



Q. WHAT IS TAKE A LOVED ONE TO THE DOCTOR DAY?

A. *Take A Loved One to The Doctor Day*

is part of a national campaign by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that focuses on the health gap between racial and ethnic minorities and the general population. The campaign, **Closing the Health Gap**, was launched November 19, 2001. ***Take A Loved One to The Doctor Day*** encourages individuals to see a health care professional on September 21, 2004, or make an appointment for the near future.

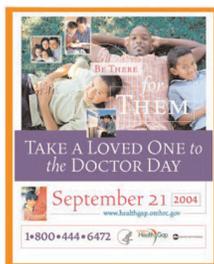
By focusing our efforts on a single day, we believe we can help generate a greater understanding of the importance of regular health screenings while at the same time focus on those populations that tend to have the least access to health care. Prior to and after ***Take A Loved One to The Doctor Day***, health messages will be aired on radio stations across America discussing the health gap and offering specific tips on leading a healthier life.

Q. WHEN IS TAKE A LOVED ONE TO THE DOCTOR DAY?

A. September 21, 2004. But individuals are urged to consider any day as a good day to take a loved one to the doctor. If you can't get an appointment on September 21, make an appointment for later in the week. The point is to go see a health professional and begin taking charge of your health.

Q. WHY IS THERE A TAKE A LOVED ONE TO THE DOCTOR DAY?

A. Research has shown that many individuals need to be motivated to seek out regular health care. While most people wait until there is an emergency before they go see a doctor, health care professionals understand the value of preventive care. ***Take A Loved One to the Doctor Day*** is an excellent way to screen individuals, and where necessary, refer them for follow-up care.



Q. WHERE IS TAKE A LOVED ONE TO THE DOCTOR DAY OCCURRING?

A. Events are being planned by local organizations in communities across the country. These will include health fairs and screenings at specific locations (shopping malls, local parks), community health forums, local media outreach and much more..

Q. WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN TAKE A LOVED ONE TO THE DOCTOR DAY?

A. Local community-based organizations, including health centers and health departments, are participating. They are seeing patients, sponsoring health fairs, sharing information about ***Take A Loved One to the Doctor Day*** and helping to transport individuals to an appointment. Local civic groups, businesses and other community-based organizations are also encouraged to participate in any way they can.

Q. HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN TAKE A LOVED ONE TO THE DOCTOR DAY?

A. It's easy. Identify someone you know who hasn't been to the doctor lately and make an appointment for them. Then take them. Or, if you haven't been to the doctor in a while, make an appointment for yourself. If they (or you) don't already have a doctor, or don't have health insurance, contact your local community health center (www.bphc.hrsa.gov/databases/fqhc) or local health department to ask about free or low-cost care. If you have insurance and don't use it, there is no better time than now. If you need assistance finding a health provider, call **1-800-444-6472** and ask to speak to one of our information specialists.

HHS is encouraging local health centers and health departments across America to play a leading role in planning local events. We encourage you to collaborate with other organizations or partners in your community to ensure that those most in need of health care will have access to a health professional on ***Take A Loved One to the Doctor Day***.

For campaign information and materials including a tool kit to help communities organize local health events please call **1-800-444-6472** or go to www.healthgap.omhrc.gov.

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Published quarterly by
the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
CMS Headquarters
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Find more Medicare news at
www.medicare.gov
www.cms.hhs.gov

MEDICARE ISSUE OF THE DAY

The **Medicare Issue of the Day** is a new series designed to introduce and explain the **Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003**. These daily fact sheets will cover important new provisions of this legislation. Find them at:

www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarerreform/issueoftheday