



STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ENTITLED TO MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

Beginning January 1, 2006, your prescription drug benefits will be provided by the Medicare program instead of the Medicaid program. You will need to pay only a small co-payment for each prescription under Medicare.* Medicaid will still pay for your other health care costs.

You will need to enroll in a Medicare prescription plan. To help you make this decision, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will be sending you a letter. It is very important that you read this letter carefully and keep this information. In this letter, CMS will tell you the plan that they have chosen for you. If you like that plan, you do not need to do anything. If you want to join another plan, you should follow the instructions in the letter.

Please look carefully at the plans available to you to see which plan covers the drugs you are currently taking. If you find a plan that fits with your current prescriptions, please enroll in that plan.

If you choose not to join a Medicare drug plan, you will lose all of your Medicaid benefits. When you join a Medicare drug plan you may receive some of your drugs, not covered by the Medicare drug plan, through Medicaid.

Whether you choose your own plan, or stay with the plan that CMS chooses for you, you will get a Medicare prescription drug card in the mail. You must use this card at the pharmacy to get your prescription drugs beginning January 1, 2006.

If you have any questions about enrolling in the Medicare Prescription Drug Program please call 1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227). You may also call your local HIICAP (Health Insurance Information Counseling & Assistance Program) at (800) 333-4114 or (212) 333-5511.

* If you live in a medical facility, such as a nursing home, you will not have to pay a co-payment.