

Medicare Modernization Act

DHS MMA Project

Medicare Part D Enrollment: Choice Counseling Tips

Enrollment Tools

Before beginning enrollment you will need tools to help you. It is recommended that you have two Internet Explorer browser windows open while enrolling a client. You should type www.medicare.gov into two of the Internet Explorer windows. In one window click on “Formulary Finder,” and in the other window click on “Enroll.”

Using Medicare.gov

Make sure you have the client’s drug history before you begin. Then, use the “Formulary Finder” browser window to enter each Part D drug that the client uses. **Use caution!** Medicare’s website will bring up drugs with similar names if it does not find the exact one you entered.

After you have entered all drugs the client takes, click “Continue with Selected Drugs” on the “Formulary Finder.” Next, you have the option to enter the strengths and dosages of each drug. If you choose not to enter the specifics, then click “**No:** Continue with Selected Drugs.”

Finally, it is important to know the client’s pharmacy. Medicare.gov allows you to find plans that have a contract with the client’s preferred pharmacy. You can choose up to three pharmacies in your area.

Choosing a Part D Plan

This takes you to the plans that cover all or some of your client’s drugs. Go to “Plans per page: 5” and change it to “Plans per page: All.” Now that you can see all of the plans you will notice some are PDPs and some are MAPDs. PDPs offer only drug coverage. MAPDs offer medical and drug coverage combined.

Premiums

All clients with Title XIX assistance qualify for the Low Income Subsidy (LIS). The client will not pay a premium if the plan costs \$30.60 per month or less in 2006 and if the plan offers standard (not enhanced) drug coverage.

In 2006, clients can pick one of the following plans and will not be charged a premium:

- Asuris Medicare Script
- Health Net Orange I
- Health Net Orange II
- Humana Standard
- Community Care Rx Basic
- PacifiCare Saver
- Prescription Pathway Bronze
- Advantage Star
- Advantage Freedom
- SierraRx
- SilverScript
- Medicare Rx Rewards
- AARP Medicare Rx
- United Medicare MedAdvance
- Wellcare Signature

Plan Formulary Status

Look at plan details by clicking on each plan's name. The best plans should say Tier 1 or Tier 2 and/or Generic/Preferred/Formulary under the category "Formulary Status." The best plans do not require prior authorizations (PAs), quantity limits (QLs), or step therapy for any of the client's drugs.

Enrolling in a Plan

After finding the best plan for the client, go to the other www.medicare.gov browser window where you clicked on "Enroll." Then, enter the zip code and plan name, next click "Enroll in a Plan." This will bring up the plan if available in the zip code entered. You will click on "View Plan List." This page shows you premiums, deductibles, and copayments. Again, clients with Title XIX assistance will not pay a premium if they enroll in one of the plans listed above.

Enrollment Record

After enrolling your client, the last page where it says "Enrollment Successful" should be printed and saved. This page includes the plan name, address, and phone number as well as a confirmation number.

*****Note:** *The confirmation number can be used to contact the plan about your client until ID cards and other information are received.****

Enrollment Resources

- Call 1-800-Medicare.
- Apply for LIS: <http://www.ssa.gov/prescriptionhelp/>
- Contact the Medicare Part D Plan directly.
- Call DHS' Medicare Hotline 877-585-0007 or go to www.oregon.gov/dhs/mma/