

**Helpful Hints When Using Your
Medicare Prescription Drug Plan at the Pharmacy**
(If you need assistance understanding this notice ask a family member or friend)

**If You Have Medicare and Coverage Through an Employer or Retiree Plan
(which has been determined to be “as good as” Medicare Part D or “creditable”):**

You Should Bring:

- Your Plan’s Card**

And, You should know that:

If you experience problems with your creditable coverage at the pharmacy, you should contact the insurer that is providing the coverage.

If you have Medicare only:

You should bring:

- Your Medicare Part D plan card or Welcome Letter from your plan (if you have not received either, you can call your plan and as for your BIN# and Member ID #)**
- Your Medicare Card**
- Your Photo ID**

And you should know that:

- You should make sure to show the pharmacist your Medicare Part D plan card.
- If you have not received your Medicare Part D plan card, show your Welcome Letter from the plan in which you are enrolled.
- If you do not have a Medicare Part D plan card or a Welcome Letter, show your Medicare Card and tell the pharmacist the plan in which you are enrolled. The pharmacist can use the plan’s dedicated pharmacist hotline to get your BIN# and Member ID#.
- If you do not have your Prescription Drug Plan card or Welcome Letter from the plan in which you are enrolled, show the pharmacist your Medicare card and have the pharmacist use your plan’s dedicated pharmacist hotline (or contact the plan yourself) and ask them for the BIN# and your Member ID #.

If you have Medicare but you have not yet enrolled in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan:

You Should:

- Be prepared to pay for the full cost of your prescriptions until you have enrolled in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan. Please read the next section carefully to learn how to get help with your prescription drug costs.**

And, you should know that:

Starting January 1, 2006, Medicare began offering prescription drug coverage through private insurance plans. Enrollment for Medicare Prescription Drug plans will continue through May 15, 2006. You could be subject to a higher premium if you enroll after May 15, 2006. To enroll in a plan, use the following steps:

- Ask your current prescription drug insurance provider if you have “creditable coverage.” Many Medicare beneficiaries may not have to do anything if their coverage has been determined to be “creditable coverage” or “as good as” Medicare Part D.
- Make a list of your medications and either
 - Call 1-800-MEDICARE to help with plan selection; or
 - You or a loved one can log on to www.medicare.gov to use the plan comparison tool; or
 - Call your Serving the Health Information Needs of Elders: SHINE Program to speak with a local health insurance counselor.
- Once you have selected a plan, enrollment can be conducted over the phone with the company or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE. You will receive a Welcome Letter from your plan, which can be used until you receive your Medicare Prescription Drug Plan card (which may take several weeks to arrive by mail).

NOTE: If you submitted your application for a Medicare Prescription Drug plan in mid- to late-December, or changed the plan to which you were assigned, you may not be enrolled in that plan yet. All Medicare Prescription Drug plans are working to get everyone enrolled. Call your Plan’s customer service line to help facilitate your enrollment; and, ask for your enrollment confirmation number available.

If you need assistance with plan selection and enrollment call the Serving the Health Information Needs of Elders: SHINE Program at 1-800-AGE-INFO (1-800-243-4636).

