



Delivering on America's Priorities – Medicare Rx Drug Benefit

Congress made a promise to America's seniors to deliver better Medicare and a prescription drug benefit.

- The promise has been met – and a bipartisan bill passed Congress and is now law.
- Traditional Medicare is strengthened and improved to keep up with advancements in health care, including disease management and preventive care.
- For the first time ever, America's seniors enrolled in the Medicare program have access to a prescription drug benefit.

Medicare's prescription drug benefit will offer voluntary drug coverage to 42 million seniors and people with disabilities.

- Beginning January 1, 2006, this coverage will be available to all people covered by or with Medicare.
- It pays for both brand name and generic drugs, and offers a choice of plans.



- Seniors who need the most help to pay for prescription drugs receive the most help under the new Medicare law. Check to see if you qualify.

Everyone in Medicare should give serious consideration to enrolling for prescription drug coverage.

- Tens of thousands of enrollment events will take place across the country. Some of these events will be sponsored by the Social Security Administration and by Medicare, or by organizations that represent seniors and patients.
- Everyone who has a family member or a friend in Medicare has a vital role to play in helping educate these beneficiaries about the Medicare drug benefit.
- Signing up for Medicare prescription drug coverage will make it easier to pay for the medications you need to stay healthy.
- Even those who don't currently use RX drugs should sign up to avoid a possible penalty later, and to pay a lower monthly premium in the future.

Things to Remember about the New Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program:

- Everyone in Medicare will find value in the Medicare prescription drug benefit and should give serious consideration to enrollment.
- The Medicare prescription drug benefit will provide reliable, affordable and guaranteed coverage to medication.
- With some exceptions, those covered by Medicare must sign up by the deadline, or have coverage that is equal to the Medicare Drug Plan or risk a premium increase.

Additional Information:

For more information about getting help with your prescription drug costs, call Wyoming Senior Citizens, Inc. or WSHIP at 1-800-856-4398, in Casper at (307) 235-5959, or Cheyenne at (307) 634-1010 or visit website: www.wyomingseniors.com

To learn more about the Medicare prescription drug plan, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or visit www.medicare.gov



Important Dates:

- October 2005 - Medicare & You handbook with more information on how to sign up.
- November 15, 2005 - Sign up starts.
- January 1, 2006 - Coverage starts for those who signed up by December 31, 2005.
- May 15, 2006 - Last day to sign up in 2006.

Remember to join by this date or you will have to wait until November 15, 2006, to join and you may pay higher premiums.

For more Information....

Contact Wyoming

Senior Citizens, Inc.

1-800-856-4398

or 1-800 MEDICARE

view the Medicare Website at

www.medicare.gov

Offices and Locations:

WASHINGTON, DC

307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202.224.6441
Fax: 202.224.1724

CASPER

100 East B Street,
Suite 2201
Casper, WY 82601
Phone: 307.261.6413
Fax: 307.265.6706

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 22201
Casper, Wyoming 82602

CHEYENNE

2120 Capitol Avenue
Suite 2013
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001
Phone: 307.772.2451
Fax: 307.638.3512

ROCK SPRINGS

2632 Foothill Boulevard
Suite 101
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
Phone: 307.362.5012
Fax: 307.362.5129

SHERIDAN

2 North Main Street
Suite 206
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801
Phone: 307.672.6456
Fax: 307.672.8227

RIVERTON

325 West Main
Suite F
Riverton, Wyoming 82501
Phone: 307.856.6642
Fax: 307.856.5901

Sign up for our newsletter at
CThomas_Newsletter@thomas.senate.gov

Medicare Sign-up Facts for Seniors:

From U.S. Senator Craig Thomas

“As part of my commitment to improve health care in Wyoming, Congress has strengthened and modernized the Medicare program. We have increased personal choice and utilized the private market to give seniors a more modern and efficient Medicare system. Inside this brochure are facts about how the prescription drug benefit will help you.

U.S. SENATOR CRAIG THOMAS