



North Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance
Recipient Services MEU

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Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

L. Allen Dobson, Jr., M.D., Assistant Secretary
for Health Policy and Medical Assistance

September 21, 2005

Re: Medicare Auto-enrollment October
Medicaid Card Insert

Dear County Director of Social Services:

Attached is the text for the insert that will be included with the October 2005 Medicaid ID cards. The Medicare auto-enrollment insert explains Medicaid will no longer pay for prescriptions for any and all Medicare beneficiaries. Medicare recipients, who receive Medicaid benefits that include prescription coverage, will be automatically enrolled in a prescription drug plan. This enrollment will be completed in October. This insert also explains what information Medicare recipients will receive from CMS and the prescription drug plan, and that they may choose a different plan beginning November 15, 2005. Information on who to contact to change plans is also listed on the insert.

Please be sure your staff is aware of this insert.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your Medicaid Program Representative.

Sincerely,

L. Allen Dobson

Attachment

ATTENTION: If You Receive Medicare

Effective 01/01/06, if you have Medicaid and Medicare, you will receive prescription drug coverage through a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan. Medicaid will no longer pay for your prescriptions.

To ensure you continue to receive your prescriptions with no lapse, Medicare will automatically enroll you in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan in October. You will receive a letter from CMS notifying you of the plan chosen for you. You will also receive information from the plan. This will include information such as: covered drugs, participating pharmacies, and contact numbers. If the plan chosen for you does not meet your needs, you may choose a different plan at any time beginning November 15. The open enrollment period for everyone on Medicare to choose a prescription drug plan begins November 15.

To change plans you may contact one of the following:

**Prescription Drug Plan chosen for you or,
1-800-MEDICARE or WWW.MEDICARE.GOV, or
Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) 1-800-443-9354**