

Health Bulletin

Cooperative Extension Service

This publication compiled and edited by the H.E.E.L. Program
(Health Education through Extension Leadership) Staff

Have You Had Your Prescription Check Up?

If you are 65 years of age or disabled, or have Medicare, specific steps are necessary to enroll in Medicare Part D. Regardless of your income, health or prescription cost, you could qualify for prescription benefits.

Although open enrollment periods take place during November 15th through December 31st each year. However if you will not have credible prescription coverage at age 65 or in the event your situation changes, (you lose your job / benefits, move, become disabled) you need to become enrolled within 63 days of the above occurrences to avoid penalties.

WHERE DO I BEGIN-NEW ENROLLMENT

Begin exploring plans at least 3 months prior to turning 65 years old, prior to retirement or if you qualify for disability and will not have credible prescription drug coverage.

SELECTING A PLAN

Different plans are better for some people; plans are as different as a person's individual needs. To research the plan that is best for you:

Contact State Health Insurance Programs SHIP at 1-800-633-4227 or www.shiptalk.org

BENEFITS BASED ON SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Some persons qualify for EXTRA HELP or special assistance, how do you know if you do or not? Some circumstances include income, and/or the receipt of inadequate information. To find out if you qualify for additional assistance:

Contact www.BenefitsCheckUp.org or call Social Security 1-800-772-1213.

LISTED BELOW ARE TWO ADDITIONAL RESOURCES OFFERING “UP TO DATE” INFORMATION REGARDING UNDERSTANDING AND ENROLLING IN MEDICARE AND MEDICARE PART D.

My Medicare Matters is a community-based education and outreach initiative whose goal is to help people with Medicare and their families better understand the Medicare prescription drug coverage so that these people can assess their personal situation, understand their choices, compare plan options and make the enrollment decision that they believe is right for their health and their financial situation. It is sponsored by the National Council on the Aging and the Access to Benefits Coalition.

Call 1-800-MEDICARE or visit their website at www.MyMedicareMatters.org

Medicare Rights Center (MRC) is the largest independent source of health care information and assistance in the United States for people with Medicare. MRC helps older adults and people with disabilities get good, affordable health care. Understanding Medicare can be a daunting task. People with Medicare want and need immediate answers to their questions. Few organizations have the time or resources to provide this type of specialized assistance to their employees, retirees, or members. MRC provides, hotlines, counseling services and up to date information.

Call 1-888-795-4627 or visit their website at www.MedicareRights.org

BEGIN YOUR PRESCRIPTION CHECK UP TODAY!

You can begin the process by talking with your local Pharmacist, Doctor, employer, family and friends. Someone you know should be able to assist you to check out the benefits that apply to you. It will take some time to identify the best plan. If you take the proper steps now to enroll and continue to evaluate your situation, you will obtain the peace of mind necessary to assure you or your loved ones are covered and remain covered, with the best Medicare Prescription plan available!

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Health Education
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For more information on health issues in
Kentucky, please visit: www.ca.uky.edu/HEEL

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