

# Medicare Modernization Act

DHS MMA Project

## Resources for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) now has a single website for its outreach materials regarding Medicare’s prescription drug program. The website has fact sheets and brochures to help people decide if they need Medicare’s prescription coverage, how people can choose and enroll in a prescription drug plan, and how Medicare’s prescription drug coverage affects other means-tested programs such as Food Stamps and Housing Assistance. This material is at the following link:

[www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/tools/materials/medicaretraining/hihresourcekit/default.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/tools/materials/medicaretraining/hihresourcekit/default.asp)

Here are the CMS website’s resources:

1. “How to Help”: A general introduction for those who help people with Medicare make decisions about their prescription drug coverage.
2. “Understanding Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage”: Materials (brochures, advertisements) that give people with Medicare and their families basic information about the new prescription drug coverage.
3. “Deciding about Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage”: Fact sheets for five different groups of people with Medicare, addressing the decisions that each group must make:
  - People with Medicare and no prescription drug coverage.
  - People with a Medigap, or Medicare Supplemental Insurance policy.
  - People with prescription drug coverage through an employer, union, or the Veterans’ Administration.
  - People with a Medicare Advantage Plan.
  - People with Medicare and Medicaid, who get help with their Medicare Part B premiums, or people with Medicare who applied for extra help.
4. “Choosing and Joining a Plan”: A worksheet to assemble personal information, fact sheets offering guidance for comparing and joining plans, and a model enrollment form.
5. “Extra Help with Medicare Drug Plan Costs”: Fact sheets to help people with Medicare apply for extra help and tip sheets to understand how extra help affects a person’s Housing Assistance, Food Stamps, and other means-tested programs.

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6. “Resources to Help You”: Links to all CMS and Social Security Administration (SSA) references as of September 27, 2005, as well as contact information for Oregon SHIBA and CMS’s Region X.
7. “Electronic References”: Web links to important information, including CMS publications and news releases, Federal Poverty Guidelines, and a full and summary version of the Medicare Modernization Act.

In addition, CMS posts a website that gives staff, volunteers, and partners up-to-date information on Medicare prescription drug coverage implementation at the following website: [www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/default.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/default.asp)

## **Other helpful resources for families and communities:**

- Oregon Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) at 800-722-4134
- The Medicare Rights Center at [www.medicarerights.org](http://www.medicarerights.org)
- AARP at [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)

## **Outreach materials for staff, volunteers, and providers who work with people with developmental disabilities and people with mental illness:**

- From the Arc and United Cerebral Palsy, for people with developmental disabilities: <http://thedesk.info/PartD/MedicarePartDBrochureFinal050928.pdf>
- From the National Mental Health Association, for people with mental illness: [www.nmha.org/federal/MedicareConsumerWorkbook.pdf](http://www.nmha.org/federal/MedicareConsumerWorkbook.pdf)
- And a website created by leading organizations in mental health has helpful information at [www.mentalhealthpartd.org](http://www.mentalhealthpartd.org)