

Key Dates and Resources for the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan

Dates

October 2005

Medicare Prescription drug plans release information about their plan and coverage offered

Comparative plan information available from Medicare

Medicare & You handbook becomes available with more information on how to sign up

November 15, 2005

First day beneficiaries can enroll in an individual Medicare prescription drug plan

January 1, 2006

Medicare prescription drug coverage begins for those who signed up by December 31, 2005

May 15, 2006

Last day beneficiaries can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan. If beneficiaries do not enroll by this date, they will have to wait until November 15, 2006 to join and they may pay higher premiums.

Resources

Here is a list of websites that can help with any additional questions that you or your patients may have:

www.medicare.gov

www.socialsecurity.gov or www.ssa.gov

www.CMS.hhs.gov

www.MedicareRxEducation.org

www.kff.org

For information about Medicare and programs specific to seniors:

www.aarp.org

or call:

Medicare: 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227); TTY 1-877-486-2048

Social Security Administration: 1-800-772-1213; TTY 1-800-325-0778