



Medicare Prescription Drug Program Enrollment Facts

If you didn't join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (Part D) by May 15, 2006 and you don't currently have a drug plan that, on average, covers at least as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage, you will have to wait until November to join. When you join your premium cost will go up at least 1% per month for every month you wait to join. Like other insurance you will have to pay this penalty for as long as you have Medicare.

Although the initial enrollment period for most people on Medicare ended on May 15, 2006 there are many people who are still eligible to enroll in a Part D plan. You may continue to enroll in a Part D plan if you are:

Turning 65: If you are turning 65 and are now Medicare eligible you have a seven month enrollment period beginning three months before turning 65, your birth month, and three months after your month of birth.

New to Medicare (Under 65 With Disability): Similar to people who are turning 65, other types of people who became eligible for Medicare on or after Feb. 1, 2006 have an initial enrollment period for Part D that is the 7-month period surrounding Medicare eligibility. If you qualify for Medicare because of a disability you have a "month" in which you become eligible for Medicare to enroll in a Part D plan.

On Medicare & Medical Assistance: If you are on both Medicare and Medical Assistance you may continue to change plans once per month. Once you enroll in a plan, Medicare will send notice of the disenrollment to the old plan.

Low Income With Special Enrollment Period: If you are eligible for the low income subsidy (LIS) you will receive letters from CMS indicating you may enroll in a Part D plan during a special enrollment period. If a plan is not selected, a plan will be chosen for you.

Moving Out of State: If you move to a state where your current Part D plan is not approved by Medicare to provide coverage, you may enroll in a plan that provides service in that geographical area.

Call the Senior LinkAge Line® if you have questions about enrollment at 1-800-333-2433.