

- Tips that may allow you to reduce your drug expenses:
 1. Talk to your health care provider or pharmacist, and ask if generic medicines could save you money. Generic medicines are the same medicines as their brand name counterparts, but are available at lower cost.
 2. Ask your provider or pharmacist if another, less costly, medicine could provide a similar therapeutic treatment for you.
 3. Ask your provider or pharmacist to review all the medicines you are taking to see if you still need to take all of them. Sometimes, patients remain on a medicine when they no longer need to be, or one medicine may duplicate the treatment of another medicine you are also taking. **Do not discontinue any medicine without your health care provider's permission.**

Be Aware &
Take Care!
Talk to Your
Pharmacist!



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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Medicare Part D

Selecting a Prescription Drug Plan



**Beginning January 1, 2006,
Medicare recipients became
eligible for membership in an
insurance plan to help pay for
their prescription drugs.**



How to find a plan:

- Make a list of all prescription medicines you take. Write down the name and strength of each medicine: e.g., Verapamil, 240 mg.
- Locate your Medicare card. You will need this information when selecting your plan.
- Go online to the government's Web site, www.medicare.gov, or ask someone you trust to protect your privacy to help you access the site.

If you do not have access to the Internet, contact the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) at 1-800-434-0222.

HICAP provides free, impartial help in dealing with Medicare and long-term care insurance issues. Because of the high volume of HICAP calls, you will be asked to leave a message for a return call. California's HICAP Web site is sponsored by the California Health Advocates and is located at www.calhealthadvocates.org.

Some pharmacists and other health care providers may be available to assist you. Ask for assistance if you need it.

Note: If you already have prescription drug coverage from another health plan, be sure to check with your current plan or with HICAP before selecting any prescription drug plan. In some cases, selecting a prescription drug plan could terminate other health coverage you currently have.

- Compare the different plans—look at the amount you will have to pay each month as a monthly enrollment charge and the amount you will have to pay as a co-payment for each medicine.

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