

# Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage

As of January 1, 2006, Medicare added optional prescription drug coverage for Medicare beneficiaries. Under Medicare Part D, coverage is available through private drug plans approved by the federal government. A Medicare recipient signs up for Part D by selecting a Part D plan and enrolling directly with the plan's private provider. Plans vary in cost and scope of coverage. Benefit specialists at the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Southwest Wisconsin—Iowa County are well-versed in the complexities of this new program and are available to assist prospective participants in choosing the most suitable plan.

## ELIGIBILITY

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**Am I Eligible?** *You are eligible for prescription drug coverage when you first become eligible for Medicare.*

**When Can I Enroll?** *You may sign up three months before the month you turn age 65 until three months after you turn 65. If you don't sign up when you are first eligible, you may pay a penalty. If you didn't join when you were first eligible, your next opportunity will be during the annual enrollment period from October 15, 2011 through December 7, 2011.*

**Can I Elect To Stay With My Current Drug Plan?** *If you already have prescription drug insurance that the federal government has determined is as good as or better than the private plans available to you under Part D, you may remain with your present plan. Wisconsin SeniorCare is an example of such an approved plan. See 8.17. Your plan should notify you whether it has received federal approval.*

## BENEFITS

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**What Will My Medications Cost Under Part D?** *Your out-of-pocket costs will depend, in part, on which of your particular medications are covered by the private plan you select. Your costs will also be affected by a complex formula linked to the total price of your medicines over the course of each year. You should contact a Aging and Disability Resource Center of Southwest Wisconsin—Iowa County benefits specialist - or Medicare directly - to get complete information about the factors that will affect your outlay.*

## INFORMATION

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For more information about eligibility and benefits, contact a benefit specialist at the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Southwest Wisconsin—Iowa County, 608-930-9841 or in the Courthouse at 303 W Chapel St Ste 1300, Dodgeville, WI 53533 or visit [www.iowacounty.org](http://www.iowacounty.org), click on Department, then click on ADRC. You can also call Medicare directly at 1-800-633-4227; the Wisconsin Prescription Drug Helpline at 1-866-456-8211; or the Disability Drug Benefit Helpline at 1-800-926-4862.