

INTRODUCING

MedicareRx

Important Information About Medicare Rx and Your Kidney Health Care Drug Benefits



HELPING TEXANS GET IT

www.TexasMedicareRx.org

Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) with any questions

Para español, vea el revés

KHC-1105-C



MedicareRx

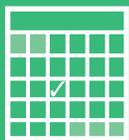
Starting January 1, 2006, Kidney Health Care (KHC) recipients can start getting drug coverage through Medicare Rx, the new Medicare prescription drug program.

Here are the steps YOU need to take now:



1. Apply to the Social Security Administration for extra help with the costs for Medicare Rx. Call 1-800-772-1213 to request an application. TTY users may call toll-free 1-800-325-0778.

2. Review all the Medicare Rx prescription drug plans to see which one is best for you.



3. Select and enroll in a Medicare Rx prescription drug plan starting November 15, 2005.



4. Special assistance is available to help you find a plan and enroll. Talk to your social worker for more information, or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) and talk to a benefits counselor.

5. See page 5 of this booklet for important KHC benefit information.

The purpose of this booklet is to provide information to KHC recipients about the Medicare Prescription Drug Program, called Medicare Rx. This booklet will explain the new Medicare Rx drug benefit, how KHC drug benefits will change and what KHC recipients need to do to get their prescription drug benefits.



How will Medicare Rx work?

Prescription Drug Plans

- The Medicare Rx drug benefit is provided by regular prescription drug plans or by Medicare Advantage plans.
- Information on the different drug plans is on the Medicare Web site, www.Medicare.gov, or you can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).
- Special assistance is available to help you find a plan and enroll. Call your social worker for more information.

Plan Enrollment

You can begin enrolling in your plan starting November 15, 2005.

If you enroll between November 15, 2005, and December 31, 2005, your new Medicare Rx prescription drug coverage starts **January 1, 2006**.

If you enroll after December 31, 2005, your new coverage starts on the first day of the next month after you enroll.

Formulary (Drug List)

- Each plan has a list of drugs it covers, called a *formulary*.
- Each plan has its own participating pharmacies.
- With Medicare Rx, there are no limits on the number of prescriptions you can fill each month.
- Some types of drugs are not covered by Medicare Rx. These are called excluded drugs and include over-the-counter medications and vitamins. This information is explained on page 5 of this booklet.

What are the Costs for Medicare Rx?

There are costs for Medicare Rx. You may be eligible for help from the Social Security Administration (SSA) to pay for these costs. Your costs will depend on the level of assistance you receive from the SSA. KHC will be able to help with some of these costs. See below for more information.

Costs include:

- A monthly premium
- An annual deductible—the amount you have to pay each year before the plan begins to pay for your prescriptions
- Co-insurances—a percent of the cost of prescriptions that you pay after your annual deductible has been met
- A copayment—a small fee for each prescription
- Drugs not covered during the gap period—a period of time when there is no Medicare Rx payment for drug costs
- Catastrophic limit—when you have reached a certain level of expenses, Medicare Rx will start paying for 95% of your drug costs
- Drugs excluded from Medicare Rx include over-the-counter medications and vitamins





The chart below shows the types of assistance KHC will cover. The assistance you get from KHC for Medicare Rx costs will depend on the extra help you may get from the SSA.

	Based on 2005 annual income for a family size of 2:		
	If your income is less than \$17,320	If your income is \$17,321 - \$19,245	If your income is more than \$19,245
SSA Subsidy Levels:	You may qualify for Full Subsidy	You may qualify for Partial Subsidy	You may not qualify for Subsidy
KHC will cover...			
Base Plan Premium		✓	✓
Deductible		✓	✓
Co-Insurance		✓	✓
Gap Coverage			✓
Catastrophic Limit drug costs over \$5,100			
Excluded Medicare Drugs on KHC Formulary	✓	✓	✓

- See page 5 for a detailed explanation of KHC benefits.
- Talk to your social worker if you have any questions.
- The Social Security Administration (SSA) also considers resources to determine your level of extra help. Call the SSA if you have questions.
- The information in this table is based on a family size of 2. Your situation may be different depending on your family size and resources.



Important Information about your KHC Program Benefits:

- If you are eligible for Medicare, you **MUST** enroll in a Medicare Rx prescription drug plan. Your standard KHC drug coverage will end on March 31, 2006.
- You must apply for extra help from the SSA before KHC will assist you with your Medicare Rx costs.
- You must enroll in a plan during the open enrollment period to avoid a late penalty that will be applied to your Medicare Rx monthly premiums. Please note KHC drug coverage is not as good as Medicare Rx.
- If you have private drug insurance, contact your insurance company to see how your insurance coverage compares with the new Medicare Rx drug plans.
- KHC will not provide assistance to recipients with private drug insurance.
- KHC will not provide assistance for recipients who enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan.
- Immunosuppressive medications for transplant recipients will continue to be covered under Medicare Part B.
- If you are not eligible for Medicare, your drug benefits with KHC will remain the same. When you become eligible for Medicare, you will need to enroll in a Medicare Rx prescription drug plan.
- KHC will provide limited assistance for Medicare Rx costs for premiums, deductibles, co-insurances and gap coverage.
- KHC will cover Medicare Rx excluded drugs that are on the KHC formulary (vitamins and over-the-counter drugs).
- KHC drug assistance is limited to four prescriptions per month. These drugs must be on the KHC formulary, and a \$6 copayment may be applied under certain situations. Non-formulary plan drugs will not be covered by KHC.