

Community Health Coalition, Inc.

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Health Sunday Topic: Update on Medicare Prescription Drug Benefits (Prepared by Senior PHARMAssist with Dr. Brenda Jamerson, PharmD)

Medicare prescription drug coverage is insurance that covers both brand-name and generic prescription drugs at participating pharmacies.

Everyone with Medicare is eligible for the new coverage regardless of income and resources, health status, or current prescription expenses.

Even if you do not take a lot of prescription drugs, still consider joining a prescription drug plan. As you age, the need for prescription drugs to stay healthy may increase.

Dr. Brenda Jamerson, PharmD (a clinical pharmacist) and professor at Campbell University states, "It is important to take medicines on the schedule they are prescribed. The ability to afford medicines may be a major factor in getting prescriptions filled and taking them on schedule. Remember to be aware of your eligibility for coverage from the Medicare prescription drug plans because savings will vary between plans depending on the medications that you take."

For more information, read today's Health Sunday Flyer; and refer to the following websites:

www.medicare.gov;

www.mymedicarematters.org;

www.seniorpharmassist.org.



**HEALTH SUNDAY
IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY**
is a program of Health Tips.
It is provided by the
Community Health Coalition
in cooperation with the
Interdenominational
Ministerial Alliance of Durham
and Vicinity for church goes
each 4th Sunday.
Today's Health Tip is:
Medicare Prescription
Drug Benefits
in the
African American
Community.

**REMEMBER:
A HEALTHY DURHAM
INCLUDES YOU !!**

Note: Please make enough copies of the attached flyer and distribute to each morning service attendee.
PLEASE return the enclosed POSTCARD.

Update on Medicare Prescription Drug Benefits

In October 2005 you should have received the Medicare and You handbook and information about the different coverages available.

The first day to join the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage was November 15, 2005.

If you have joined a Medicare coverage plan by December 31, 2005, your plans coverage began January 1, 2006.

The last day to enroll in a Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage plan for 2006 is May 15th.

What you can do right now to make an informed decision about Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage:

- ◆ Gather information about your current coverage for health care and prescription drugs. Make sure you know what plan you have now.
- ◆ Gather information about the drugs you use, including the names and dosages.
- ◆ Compare plans using the Medicare website because not all plans cover all medications
- ◆ If you want to use your current pharmacy make sure they accept the plan you choose



Need more information? Help is available.

Please call Senior PHARMAssist for individual and group attention at 919-688-4772 (no charges or fees).

Or visit them on the web at www.seniorpharmassist.org

Senior PHARMAssist promotes healthier living for Durham seniors by helping them obtain and better manage needed medications and by providing health education, community referral, and advocacy.

Other Important Contact Information

Medicare (Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services or CMS)

www.medicare.gov; 1-800-633-4227

NC Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (NC SHIIP) 1-800-443-9354

Good general overview www.mymedicarematters.org

Social Security Administration 1-800-772-1213

Your Health Sunday Coordinator is: _____

A Message from your Community Health Coalition in association with
The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Durham and Vicinity, North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company, Central Carolina Black Nurses' Council Inc., and Durham Regional Hospital.