



Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
GOVERNOR

STATE OF LOUISIANA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS



Frederick P. Cerise, M.D., M.P.H.
SECRETARY

Notice of Action

December 1, 2005

Dear Medicaid Recipient:

Beginning January 1, 2006, Medicare will help pay for your prescription drugs. **Louisiana Medicaid will no longer pay for most of your prescription drugs after December 31, 2005.** Louisiana Medicaid will continue to pay for other health care if you are eligible to receive this help.

Medicare will enroll you into a prescription drug plan. You should have already received a notice printed on yellow paper which included the name of the plan and contact information. If you have **not** received this notice, you can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or if you have a computer, visit www.medicare.gov. Starting in January, most pharmacists can tell you the plan in which you are enrolled.

However, you can **change** plans at any time if the one you are in does not work for you. Compare plans; find out which one covers your prescriptions and what pharmacies you can use. You can switch plans and the coverage begins on the first of the next month.

Depending on your income level, you will pay a co-payment (\$1 to \$5) for your prescriptions. If you are living in a nursing home or in an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR) you will not have to pay any co-payments.

Louisiana Medicaid will continue to cover a few prescriptions that will not be covered by the Medicare Prescription Drug Plans. Check with your doctor or pharmacist to see if you take any drugs that Medicaid will continue to pay for. The Medicaid co-pays will continue to apply for prescriptions for those drugs covered by Medicaid.

For more information, contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or the Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIP) of Louisiana at 1-800-259-5301 or 1-225-342-5301.

You have the right to request an appeal if you think this change is wrong, but you will have a hearing only if you think the law does not apply to you or if you think we do not have the right facts about you. If you ask for an appeal because you think the law is wrong, your appeal will be decided without a hearing. If you want to appeal this action, please send your request in writing to:

DHH Bureau of Appeals
P.O. Box 4183
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Sincerely,

Ben Bearden, Director
Louisiana Medicaid