



Information Partners Can Use on:

Using Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Before Receiving a Drug Plan Membership Card

New Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

As of March 2006

If a person enrolls or switches drug plans late in the month, they may need to fill prescriptions before they receive their drug plan membership card. If this is the case, they should let the pharmacist know the name of the Medicare drug plan they have joined, and they may substitute other information for their card if necessary. They should be aware that since the pharmacist will have to search for their membership information, it may take a little longer than usual to fill their prescription.

The following may be used as a temporary substitute for a drug plan membership card.

- An acknowledgement letter, or
- a confirmation letter, or
- a welcome letter, or
- an enrollment confirmation number received from the plan. (Note: Only confirmation numbers from the plan will work, not those from www.medicare.gov's "Online Enrollment Center.")

For people with Medicare and Medicaid who haven't received their drug plan membership card

If the person has both Medicare and Medicaid or has been approved for the low-income subsidy (extra help paying for prescriptions), they should bring proof of enrollment in both programs to the pharmacy.

Proof of Medicare may include	Proof of Medicaid may include
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• their Medicare card, or• a copy of a Medicare Summary Notice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• their Medicaid card, or• a recent history of Medicaid billing in the pharmacy's patient profile, or• copy of a current Medicaid award letter

The following may be used by people with Medicare and Medicaid as a temporary substitute for a drug plan membership card.

- The automatic enrollment letter from Medicare on yellow paper, or
- an approval letter from Social Security, or
- other proof that they qualify for the low-income subsidy.